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**CGS: Hizbullah may have long-range Katyushas**

ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

HIZBULLAH has amassed an immense arsenal in south Lebanon, reportedly including improved Iranian-produced Katyushas capable of striking the cities of Acre and Karmiel, Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee yesterday.

"We have information, although not confirmed, that they have acquired 240 mm. Katyusha rockets with a 40-kilometer range. This creates a significant threat, a threat of another dimension," Shahak said.

According to an official briefing, Shahak said the improved rockets put cities like Acre and Karmiel within range of Hizbullah attack. The enhanced Katyushas nearly double the range of the conventional rockets Hizbullah is known to possess already.

"If they try to attack, it is likely that there will be hits in the settlements in the North," Shahak said.

"There is a war going on there with battles every day. Hizbullah has become bolder daily with attacks on IDF and SLA positions and the fight with them is becoming more and more dangerous," Shahak said.

"There are hundreds of Katyushas in south Lebanon dispersed in villages and if they [Hizbullah] get the order to fire they won't need very long to do so," Shahak told committee members.

"They have the stamina for many, many days of battle," Shahak said.

Still, for the moment, Shahak said, stressing the word moment, Hizbullah is not interested in violating the US-brokered limited truce. But, he added, there is no indication that Syria has moved to rein in Hizbullah.

"Actually, Karmiel is a relatively new city and we are very prepared. There are hardly any public buildings or homes that don't have a shelter," Karmiel mayor Adi Eldar told Israel Radio.

Karmiel municipal spokeswoman Levi'a Fisher said that, up until last night, no one from the defense establishment had notified the town of 40,000 residents of the reported new threat.

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Soldiers display some of the ammunition recovered from the three Hizbullah terrorists whom the IDF killed in the security zone on Sunday. (Avihu Shapiro/Israel Sun)

## IDF kills three terrorists in security zone

DAVID RUDGE

THREE Palestinian terrorists were killed by IDF paratroopers in a close-range clash in the security zone early Sunday morning, it was revealed yesterday, as fighting continued in the region.

It is believed the heavily armed and well-provisioned gunmen, from two Palestinian organizations, had intended to attack IDF or South Lebanese Army soldiers in the zone.

Nevertheless, military sources said the possibility that the squad might have been planning to infiltrate Israel could not be ruled out.

The details of the clash were unveiled yesterday, as the paratroopers involved in the clash returned to their base from operational duties.

"As part of the inactivated operations of the company in the security zone, we encountered three terrorists," said platoon commander Lt. Meir. "We spotted the squad, opened fire at all of them and they all fell. The gunmen had no chance to return fire, he said.

He stressed that the aim of the army's initiated operations was to confront terrorists before they had a chance to reach Israel's northern border.

The terrorist squad was composed of members of George Habash's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and the Democratic Front, headed by Naif Hawatmeh. They were armed with Kalashnikov rifles, plenty of spare ammunition, and communication equipment, and also had sufficient supplies of canned food and water to keep them in the field for several days.

According to reports from Lebanon at the time, the clash itself occurred near Talousa in the central sector of the zone.

Lt. Meir noted that after recent setbacks for the IDF, there was a sense of satisfaction among the troops for having carried out their mission.

"The whereabouts and the distance don't matter. What's important is that we did our duty to confront the terrorists there [in the zone], before they could reach Misgav or any other kibbutz," he said.

Another officer, Lt. Shabo, said such an incident was a "high point" for the troops, after all the training, exercises and operations, many of which ended in nothing. "When there's an incident like this you feel good. You feel you have carried out your mission," he said.

Meanwhile, fighting continued in the security zone. A Lebanese civilian was killed in a roadside bomb blast near Alman, in the eastern sector of the zone. Hizbullah claimed responsibility for the attack, saying it had detonated an explosive device alongside a car driven by an off-duty SLA soldier, who was killed.

The organization said that at the same time it had also attacked the SLA's nearby Alman position with Sagger anti-tank missiles, mortars and machine guns, provoking IDF and SLA return fire.

Earlier in the morning, a separate roadside bomb exploded

near Rashaf in the western sector of the zone, without causing any casualties or damage. Hizbullah's Shi'ite rival, Amal, claimed responsibility for that attack.

## Mordechai ready to present plan for Hebron

Proposal would change terms of accords with PA

DAVID MAKOVSKY

DEFENSE Minister Yitzhak Mordechai is planning to present Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu with a proposal to change the Oslo accords with regard to the extent of Palestinian control in Hebron.

Under the plan, to be presented in the coming days, the Palestinian Authority would only gain civilian control over Hebron's Arab neighborhoods instead of full authority over the area. Overriding security control would remain in Israeli hands, a senior official said.

Under the Oslo accords, the IDF is to pull back from approximately 80% of Hebron, leaving all Arab neighborhoods of Hebron under full PA control, designated Area A.

But under Mordechai's proposal, Hebron would no longer be designated Area A, but part of Area B, an area of shared control, with the IDF permitted to move freely around the city as it deems necessary for security purposes.

There is speculation that under Mordechai's proposal, the PA would instead be given greater control in neighboring Palestinian areas outside of Hebron, such as Halhoul.

Changing the designation of Hebron from Area A to Area B would mean that the IDF would be in charge of security there, with the Palestinian Police having only a secondary role. That would constitute a major change to the Oslo accords, which removed the IDF from all urban Palestinian areas, including those in Area B, where the IDF is stationed in the countryside, outside the villages.

It remains unclear if Netanyahu will accept the Mordechai proposal as an opening position in negotiations with the Palestinians on Hebron, which the premier has linked to prior resolution of alleged PA activity in Jerusalem.

The security cabinet is scheduled to meet today, but it is not clear whether Mordechai will bring up the proposal in some form during that meeting, or hold private discussions with Netanyahu first.

(Continued on Page 8)

## Officials: Settlers to get quarter of requested caravans

DAN IZENBERG

OFFICIALS at the Prime Minister's Office confirmed yesterday that settlers had requested 1,200 caravans for use by public institutions, but that only 300 have been granted.

The officials added they expect that Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu will permit the populating of 3,000 homes constructed in the territories before the 1992 elections, but don't see this happening imminently.

French Foreign Minister Hervé de Charette said the decision to place hundreds of caravans in the territories is a violation of

the status quo and could endanger the final-status talks with the Palestinians.

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai's decision to allow the 300 trailers into the Jewish settlements in the administered territories is "a mixed blessing," according to Binyamin District spokeswoman Alisa Herbst. "It's too little, it came too slowly and will cost us a lot of money, but we're very happy to get them."

According to Herbst, the various regional councils in the territories submitted requests for

about 1,200 caravans, all of them for public services such as classrooms, kindergartens and day-care centers.

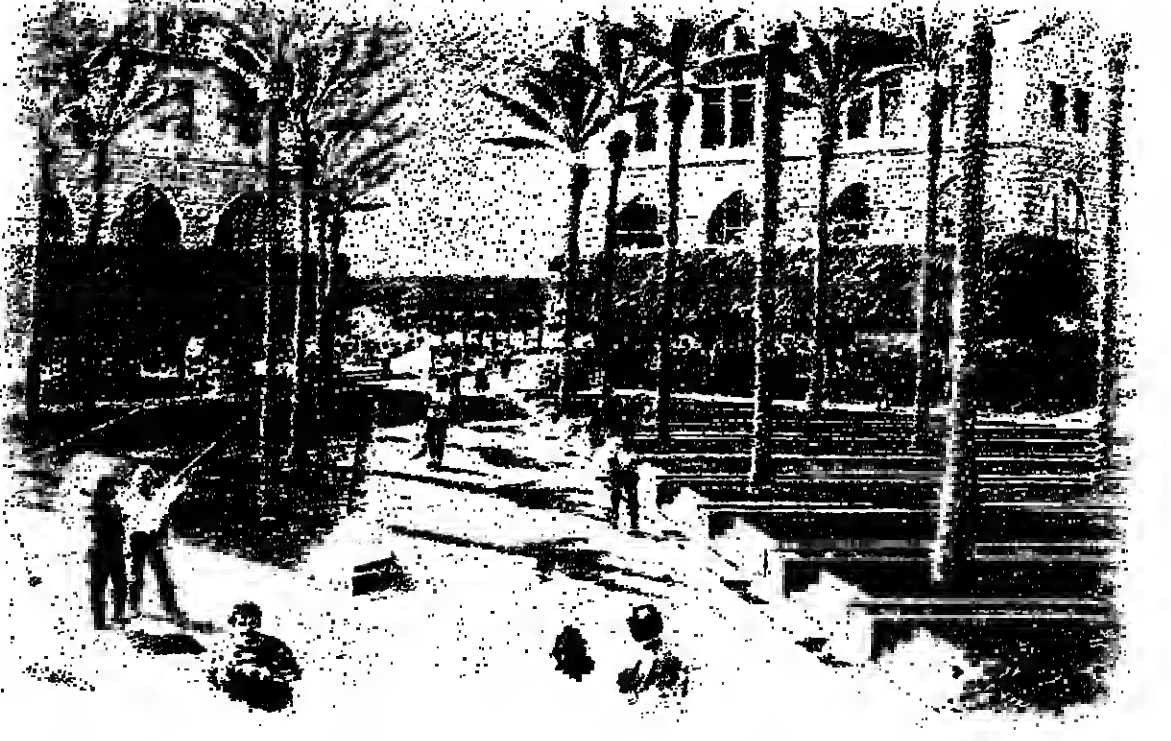
Pinhas Wallerstein, head of the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria and Gaza, said the public is blowing Mordechai's decision out of proportion.

"Just because we have his permission does not mean we will be able to move any units into the settlements," Wallerstein said. "It requires funding to renovate them and turn them into classrooms or dormitories."

(Continued on Page 8)

## THE SEA, THE AMAZING VIEW, THE INCOMPARABLE JAFFA

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## Shahak: Lower motivation is weakening IDF

ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

THE motivation to perform reserve duty is falling so low that Israel's top general said yesterday he would be "worried and scared if the state should ever need to fight for its existence."

"More and more reservists are reducing their [medical] profiles. I fear that this evasion is getting a kosher stamp of legitimacy in society," Lt. Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak was quoted as saying.

Speaking before the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, Shahak said the decline in motivation is an issue that policy makers have avoided so far.

"I regret that a serious and deep discussion has not been carried out regarding the place of the army in Israel society," Shahak said.

He cited instances of universities not allowing reservists a chance to make up examinations and of employers laying off workers due to reserve duty as manifestation of the eroding position of the army.

"This committee has to deal with it," Shahak said.

Shahak's comments echo those of the state comptroller, who noted the drop in motivation among reservists earlier this year. In her annual report, the

comptroller noted the growing legitimacy of evading reserve duty and that society is starting to look at those who do serve as "suckers."

Dr. Oz Almog, a sociology lecturer at the Emek Yizrael College, said society is growing weary and cynical after a prolonged - and, what is often perceived as, needless - battle for existence.

"Today, after so many wars [and] the fall of communism, Israelis feel the army is not as vital as it was," Almog said.

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# Golan lobby rebukes Netanyahu

THE Golan Residents Committee yesterday criticized comments by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu intimating that Israel would be willing to consider territorial compromise on the Golan in peace talks with Syria.

The residents committee issued a statement saying that Netanyahu did not have a mandate for making concessions on the Golan.

"The prime minister's hints of willingness to compromise over the Golan are unnecessary, harmful, invite pressure and weaken Israel's stance in negotiations," the statement said.

The announcement followed comments by Netanyahu at a press conference with Arab journalists regarding peace talks with Syria and the future of the Golan.

Netanyahu's spokesman Shai Bazak told Israel Radio yesterday that the government's position regarding the Golan was clear-cut.

"The prime minister is saying clearly and unequivocally that each of the sides to the negotiations can come with its position," said Bazak. "The Syrians can

**DAVID RUDGE**

demand all of the Golan. Negotiations can begin from whatever point they choose. They don't have to accept our position, from the outset.

"The position of Israel and the government, however, is clear and unequivocal: We believe that the Golan Heights has to remain in Israel's hands and we will firmly stand by this position," he said.

Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee chairman Uzi Landau (Likud) said that during the election campaign, Netanyahu had said there would have to be negotiations with the Syrians that could result in compromises.

Landau added, however, that he believed the Golan should remain in Israeli hands, and the compromises should be related to Lebanon.

Meanwhile, officials of the Golan Regional Council revealed that the flow of newcomers to the region is continuing unabated.

According to the officials, around 150 families have settled on kibbutzim, moshavim and vil-

lages, both secular and religious, since the beginning of the year, apart from scores of others who have moved into the town of Katzrin.

They said that all vacant homes in at least two communities on the Golan have been filled and the settlements themselves cannot absorb any more newcomers.

"We expect the number of families to have moved into homes on the Golan by September/October to reach about 200 and interest appears to be growing," said an official at the regional council offices yesterday.

Golan Regional Council chairman Yebuda Wolman said the best way for the government to show its support for the Golan would be for it to implement the "Golan 2000" development program.

The proposal calls for a NIS 660 million government investment over the next four years to expand and improve infrastructure and thereby lay the groundwork for increasing the Jewish population of the region by 10,000 by the year 2000.



Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai tests an advanced assault rifle being developed by TAAS-Israel Industries, during a visit yesterday to the company's plant. Mordechai praised the company's reorganization efforts. (Dan Danenberg)

# Hamas officials receive permits to go abroad

SEVERAL Hamas officials have received permits to travel abroad for the first time this year in what may be an arrangement between Israeli and Palestinian security agencies to test the willingness of Hamas to exercise a moderating influence on the Islamic movement.

Mahmoud Zahar, a senior Gaza Hamas spokesman, confirmed on Monday that a Hamas delegation is to go abroad. Zahar was one of four Hamas officials permitted to travel to the West Bank town of Tulkerim two weeks ago to calm tempers after the raid on the town jail in which police shot dead a Hamas activist. West Bank Hamas activists had called for an infodada against the Palestinian Authority "collaborators" and attacks against "Zionist targets."

Gaza's Hamas activists passed that test and the permits to travel abroad followed. This next trip is expected to be to Jordan to meet with anti-PA Hamas officials there who are believed to be behind the call for renewed vio-

**JON IMMANUEL**

lence.

Zahar himself, in a speech to Gaza journalists Monday, called for demonstrations and taking to the streets to prevent Israeli settlement building. But he has also called for renewed dialogue with the PA and was careful not to call for attacking Israelis.

Hamas officials in Jordan verbally attacked Zahar when he called for a halt in violence against Israelis until the elections on May 29, to avoid charges of influencing the voting.

Zahar said there was no direct contact between Hamas and Israeli authorities in obtaining permits. PA spokesmen said the PA was not involved, but it approved, and therefore security agencies must have made the arrangements. Israeli defense spokesmen would not comment.

Amin Hindi, the head of the Palestinian General Security Service, said in a meeting with Israeli journalists last week that

that not only have there been no attacks by Hamas since the February-March suicide bombings, but that "no planned attacks have been stopped recently." In contrast, the PA claimed that it prevented 14 attacks in the three month period before the elections.

Nabil Abu Rudeineh, adviser to PA Chairman Yasser Arafat, said that if a Hamas delegation goes abroad it will be the first time it has done so with Israeli-issued permits since the mid-December talks in Cairo between Hamas and the PA. He said that Hamas had asked for three things from Israel: to go to the West Bank; to go abroad; and to visit its leader Sheikh Ahmed Yassin in jail.

It does not seem that the issuing of permits means that Israel and Hamas are about to start a dialogue, but Hamas' decision to reveal the whereabouts of murdered soldier Ilan Sa'adon's body is part of a new undercurrent partly aimed to secure the ailing Yassin's release.

# Hanegbi: Gov't firmness with visiting diplomats best policy on Orient House

THE government has made it clear to foreign diplomats that they will not be permitted to visit Orient House, and in fact there have been no such visits by foreign dignitaries since the Likud took power, Health Minister Tzahi Hanegbi told the Knesset plenum yesterday.

Hanegbi was responding to four motions to the agenda, ostensibly on the government's settlement policy, but which in fact dealt mostly with other issues, both diplomatic and domestic.

The Orient House comments were in response to a charge by Yossi Sarid (Meretz) that the government was acting hypocritically by failing to close Orient House after claiming for three years that diplomatic activity in Orient House endangered Israel's claim to Jerusalem.

"Give me the name of one foreign minister or other senior diplomat who has visited Orient House since the government changed," Hanegbi retorted. "If there's no need, we

**EVELYN GORDON**

won't close it. If there is a need, then we will close it."

Hanegbi said the government had made it clear to French Foreign Minister Herve de Charette that it would not permit him to visit Orient House, and de Charette refrained from doing so. Meretz, he added, should be glad that the government is enforcing its ban on diplomatic activity at Orient House through quiet diplomacy, rather than with police cars.

Former prime minister Shimon Peres, who opened the debate, launched a scathing attack on the government for everything from its policy on the peace process through the budget cuts to the interminable quarrels in the cabinet and the recent attacks on the army by some Likud MKs and Treasury officials.

"Never has an Israeli government wasted so much credit in such a short time," he said.

During the debate, dozens of Peace Now activists demonstrated against the govern-

ment's decision to resume building in existing settlements, saying the decision would harm the peace process.

Meanwhile, the Knesset Finance Committee did discuss settlement policy yesterday, but very briefly. Deputy Housing Minister Meir Porush told the committee his ministry is currently fighting with the Treasury over what to do with the thousands of empty apartments which the previous government refused to sell. Porush favors turning at least some of these into rental apartments, while the Treasury wants to sell them.

Porush also told the committee that his ministry will not be able to sell as much land as it had planned within the Green Line this year, but did not explain the reasons for this failure. Committee chairman Avraham Ravitz asked whether land sales were being affected by a turf war between the Housing and Infrastructure Ministries.

The committee will continue its discussion with Porush next week.

# Police pushes for charges against Islamic relief fund leaders

POLICE will recommend that charges be filed against leaders of the Islamic Relief Committee, on the grounds that the Nazareth-based group acted as a front to funnel money to Hamas activists and the families of Hamas suicide bombers in the territories.

The National Fraud Squad's investigation into the committee's activities, begun when the group was shut down by military order after the wave of Hamas suicide

**BILL HUTMAN**

bombings, has been completed, according to police sources.

The findings and recommendations are to be turned over to the State Attorney's Office in the coming days, the sources added.

Committee members told Israel Radio yesterday they were innocent, and only involved in welfare work.

Police, however, found a direct link between the committee and

Hamas, according to the sources. US and British police helped uncover the sources of funding for the committee abroad, while Israel Police concentrated on making the connection with Hamas.

Earlier this week, the committee lost a High Court of Justice appeal against the closure order. The sources said the court was preoccupied with classified material showing the link between the committee and Hamas.

# Eizenstat stresses urgency of Karni zone

**HILLEL KUTTLER**  
WASHINGTON

EXPEDITING the establishment of an industrial zone at Karni near the Israel-Gaza border is "urgent" for alleviating the Palestinians' economic plight, US Undersecretary of Commerce Stuart Eizenstat said yesterday.

"We must, must, must get this industrial zone off the ground," Eizenstat told reporters upon his return from a week-long visit to Israel, Jordan, Egypt and the territories. "There's a pressure-cooker building up in the territories."

Eizenstat predicted the zone would be built by the end of the year and said Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is "very dedicated" to seeing it done.

He also stated that the administration is committed to extending duty-free status to products from the territories similar to the free-trade agreement that Israel enjoys. Such an arrangement would "provide an incentive" for US and foreign companies to invest in Palestinian areas, and would immediately benefit Palestinian exporters of flowers and strawberries, he said.

The duty-free zone provision is now contained in a pending Senate trade bill, Eizenstat said. It was already approved by the House last spring. He called the provision "the single greatest thing Congress can do" to stimulate economic development in the territories and said "it would be a travesty" for the measure to fail.

The industrial zone would likely contain high industry run by American and Israeli textile and apparel companies, and help alleviate short- and long-term Palestinian economic losses due to the closure, Eizenstat said.

PADICO, a development company funded by Palestinians abroad, is close to signing a contract to administer the industrial zone, Eizenstat said. He said that the US has committed \$4 million and Israel \$14 million toward the Karni project.

The project's success depends both on improving the security situation that necessitated the closure as well as on infrastructure development, he said.

# Jane's: Syria, Iran stockpiling chemical, biological weapons

**DOUGLAS DAVIS**  
LONDON

IRAN and Syria have among the largest stockpiles of chemical and biological weapons in the Third World, as well as the means of delivering those weapons, according to reports published in London this week.

The authoritative, London-based journal *Jane's Defence Weekly* reports today that Iran's stockpile includes "several thousand tons" of chemical weapons agents, including sulphur mustard, phosgene and cyanide.

It also quotes a CIA report as saying Iran has the ability to deliver chemical weapons by means of artillery, mortars, rockets, aerial bombs "and possibly even Scud warheads."

The report, which coincides with heightened fears in the US that state-sponsored terrorists might soon be armed with chemical weapons, notes that Iran is capable of producing 1,000 tons of chemical weapons agents each year.

It also says, "Iran is developing a production capability for more toxic nerve agents and is pushing to reduce its dependence on imported raw materials."

In addition, it says Iran has embarked on a biological weapons program, which remains largely in the research-and-development stage, although the US believes Iran already possesses some "weaponized biological agents that could be dispersed by artillery and aerial bombs."

The US is also concerned that Iran might be developing biological warheads that can be carried by ballistic missiles.

Meanwhile, a sister publication, *Jane's Sentinel*, reports that Syria has the most advanced chemical weapons program in the Arab world and relatively sophisticated missiles for delivering these weapons.

A range of chemical weapons is reported to be manufactured at facilities near Damascus, at the village of Safira, near Aleppo, and at a site near Hama, with assistance from China, North Korea and Iran.

While Syria already possesses missiles that can carry chemical warheads and are capable of hitting any part of Israel, the report notes that the longer-range versions will allow Damascus to deploy its missiles in areas that are more difficult to hit and easier to defend.

# Levy delays return from US

FOREIGN Minister David Levy has decided to prolong his private visit to the US by two days, so as to arrive back only after the weekly Friday cabinet session.

Levy, who on Sunday traveled to the US with National

**SARAH HONG**

Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon to attend a wedding in New Jersey, had stayed away from last week's cabinet session and all other ministerial forums. He had

been threatening to resign, saying the Prime Minister's Office was bypassing him on diplomatic initiatives.

Sharon will be returning today. Levy lieutenants described his extended absence yesterday as affording a further opportunity for Netanyahu to iron out the rift between them, noting that a ministerial resignation can only be tendered at an official cabinet session. Had Levy, they said, been present at this coming Friday's cabinet meeting, he would have had to act on his threats to resign. But now he will not be able to make good on his threats until next Friday.

No contacts of any sort took place this week, however. Shas leader Aryeh Deri, who credits himself with having staved off a Levy walk-out last week, is ill with pneumonia and Levy sidekick David Appel has reportedly decided he no longer wants to be involved.

On both sides, there are those who argue that no solution is possible until Levy and Netanyahu hold a serious discussion.

Conflicting signals are emanating from Netanyahu's aides. While they are unanimous in reporting that Netanyahu is resolved to lead talks with the Palestinians personally, some talk about symbolic moves to massage Levy's bruised ego.

Others around Netanyahu, however, have been reported to have strenuously counseled against even seeming to pander to Levy's prestige, as this would be tantamount to appeasement, which will only encourage more demands.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

**Gideon Patt to head Israel Bonds**  
Gideon Patt, who served as a minister in previous Likud governments, yesterday was appointed to head Israel Bonds, Finance Minister Dan Meridor announced. He will replace Natan Sharony as Bonds president and CEO at the beginning of the year.

Sharony, a retired major general, said last week that his resignation is for personal reasons and is unrelated to the election of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. *Jerusalem Post Staff*

**Economic mission in Qatar to issue visas to Israel**  
Qatar has decided to permit the Israeli economic mission located there to issue visas for Qataris wishing to visit here, senior officials said yesterday.

The decision comes at the same time that Oman is taking steps to open a commercial office in Israel.

Qatar made the decision in the aftermath of last month's visits by Dr. Dore Gold, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's foreign policy adviser, to both of those Gulf states. Gold sought to assure the states of Israel's commitment to the peace process.

During a visit to Qatar by Prime Minister Shimon Peres last April, Qatari Foreign Minister Sheikh Hamad Bin Jassim bin Jabr al-Thani said his government agrees to allow tourism between Qatar and Israel. *David Makavsky*

**Shahak: Don't let more Palestinian workers in**  
The anger among Palestinians is so great that letting more Palestinians in to work in Israel would likely be used by extremists to attack Israelis, the chief of staff said yesterday.

Lt-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak, speaking to the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, added that the closure was virtually non-existent and that the army was having difficulty enforcing it.

"There is no closure on Judea and Samaria. There are a few tens of thousands of Palestinians who are permitted to enter, but thousands more are sneaking in daily," Shahak said. *Arieh O'Sullivan*

With deep sorrow, we announce the passing of our beloved

**FREDERIKA ELLY SCHLEIN KULKER**

The funeral will be held today, Wednesday, 29 Av 5756, 14.8.1996 at 5:00 p.m. at Kibbutz Shefayim cemetery.

Ralph, Yochanan, Asher, Rotem, Sara'le and Itai.

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**SUSI LEVY**

daughter of our dear friends Marlan and Hella Gertner of Vienna

President of the Austrian Friends of Tel Aviv University

**SOCIAL & PERSONAL**

THE WEEKLY MEETING of the English-speaking Jerusalem Rotary Club will take place today at 1:00 p.m. at the YMCA, King David Street. Lydia Aron will speak on Buddhism and Nepal.

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Inmates at Ayalon Prison read yesterday from some of the books available at the prison, which is holding 'Book Week'. (Ilan Ossendyver/Israel Sun)

# Knesset raises traffic fines by up to 400%

EVELYN GORDON

CERTAIN traffic fines will go up by as much as 400%, and in some cases could be as high as NIS 5,000, under a law passed by the Knesset yesterday.

Under the law, which passed 9-0, fines could be set as high as NIS 2,000 for a first offense and NIS 3,000 for repeat offenders. Courts will be able to impose fines of up to NIS 5,000.

Until now, traffic fines imposed by the police could be no higher than NIS 500 for a first offense and NIS 760 for repeat offenders. If someone chose to challenge the ticket in court, the courts were allowed to impose fines of up to NIS 1,500.

The new, higher limits will not apply to all violations, however. The law empowers the transport minister to decide, with the approval of the Knesset Economics Committee, which offenses will be subject to the increased fines.

Transport Minister Yitzhak Levy told the plenum that one offense to which he will certainly apply the higher limits is overloaded trucks, since these are the cause of a disproportionate number of the country's fatal accidents.

Levy also said an experimental road safety program in Netanya, which the ministry was reportedly thinking of canceling, would not only be continued, but would be expanded to two other cities. The project, which uses cameras to record drivers' speed in conjunction with fines and warnings, decreased the number of people killed and injured in road accidents in Netanya by 45% over four months.

Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani, meanwhile, said his ministry will contribute to the effort to improve residents' driving habits by increasing the

number of plainclothes traffic policemen.

"Our main problem is the Israeli driver," he said. "To my sorrow, he doesn't fear the police, or anyone else."

Currently, Kahalani said, only about 10% of the traffic police operate undercover. However, identifiable policemen are less successful at catching violators, because people tend to amend their behavior as soon as they see a police car.

Furthermore, knowing that undercover policemen are patrolling the roads might lead people to be more cautious, even if a police car is not in sight, he said.

Kahalani said that there have been 12,774 accidents so far this year, 210 of them fatal. These accidents have resulted in 241 dead and some 23,000 injured, of whom some 1,850 were seriously injured.

# Dayan: Spousal violence abnormally high

EVELYN GORDON

SOME 80 percent of all violent incidents here involve spousal violence, MK Yael Dayan (Labor), chairwoman of the Knesset Committee on the Status of Women, told the committee yesterday.

Dayan said this is a higher percentage than in the rest of the Western world, where spousal violence accounts for about 60 percent of the total violence.

Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani told the committee that the police have received 9,072 complaints about intrafamilial violence since the start of the year.

One idea the police is considering to combat this problem, he said, is establishing a commu-

nity policing network, which would integrate police work with efforts by social workers and other community workers.

Policemen should also be given increased training in how to deal with family violence, he added.

Dayan said that the way the police deal with this issue has improved over the past few years. While occasional instances of very poor police behavior still exist, she said, these are now generally found only among the lowest ranks of the police.

The committee also discussed the recent

attacks by haredim on female employees of the Education Ministry. Jerusalem Police chief Aryeh Amit told the committee that the police have halted this phenomenon.

Amit said the police have also been making serious efforts to fight prostitution, using undercover agents to locate the hotels and apartments out of which prostitutes operate.

Amidst:

Meanwhile, police yesterday arrested a Katzin resident suspected of beating his seven-year-old son and wife while he was drunk. His wife is in a hospital in Safed. Police said they plan to hold the man until his trial.

# Elbit officials detained in tax evasion scam

SENIOR officials of the Elbit high-tech company are suspected of presenting false documents to the tax authorities and doing the Treasury out of some NIS 15 million, tax officials charged yesterday.

Police yesterday detained two senior employees of the company, who were brought before the Haifa Magistrate's Court for remand.

They were identified as Shlomo Nahman, who headed the company's television depart-

ment from its inception until mid-1995 and currently heads the financial department of an Elbit subsidiary, Telnet; and Avraham Sheerit, chief accountant for the television division, who was responsible for reporting to the purchase tax authorities in the years 1992-4.

The two were released on NIS 100,000 bail each, and had their passports confiscated.

Elbit is a diversified hi-tech company which has been manufacturing televisions since 1992.

Tax officials told the court that Elbit had sent false documents to the purchase tax authorities between 1992-4, in an attempt to evade paying the actual taxes due. The two suspects used sophisticated methods and there are more people suspected of being involved in the scam, the tax officials told the court.

The lawyers for the defendants claimed that the tax authorities in Jerusalem had examined and approved their tax payment methods. (Iim)

# Jewish father, son get stiff prison terms for Florida antisemitic hate hoax

MIAMI (Reuters) - A Florida father and son, themselves Jewish, received stiff prison sentences yesterday for committing antisemitic vandalism and the hoax of making money for repairing the damage.

Dade County Circuit Judge Leslie Rothenberg sentenced Al and Steven Rubin, a father and son from Hollywood, Florida, to three years and eight years in prison, respectively, plus probation, apologies and restitution, the Miami Herald said.

A jury found the two men guilty of theft in an elaborate scheme to vandalize school buses and spray paint antisemitic slogans and swastikas at Miami's Hillel Community School in order to

make money by repairing the damage.

The Rubins were caught after police arrested two teenagers for painting hate slogans at the school. The two youths told police they were paid \$50 each by a middleman who police said was working for the Rubins.

"While we as a country and a community struggle to fight against religious and racial hatred and bigotry and to protect our children from such narrow-mindedness, Al Rubin and Steven Rubin opened old wounds by fouling a school with such hatred and violence for no reason other than greed," the judge said as she sentenced the two men.

# New police unit to deal with illegal foreign workers

BILL HUTMAN

A SPECIAL police unit, responsible for the expulsion of illegal foreign workers, is to be established soon, as part of the authorities' decision to systematically force the illegal workers out of the country.

"Expulsion orders have been issued before, but only on a one-at-a-time basis," said Internal Security Ministry spokesman Eric Bar-Chen. "Now we are talking about an operation on a much larger scale."

The internal security ministry, together with the Interior and Labor ministries, reportedly hopes to expel up to 20,000 illegal workers a year, eliminating the estimated 100,000 illegal worker population within five years.

Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani has made the operation a priority, and earlier this week ordered the new police unit set up. Kahalani also wants a detention center built where the illegal workers "can be held pending their expulsion."

"The unit will receive expulsion orders from the interior ministry and be responsible for locating and detaining the illegal workers named in the orders," Bar-Chen said.

# Jerusalem Police arrest 20 CIS prostitutes, 13 employers

BILL HUTMAN

TWENTY female prostitutes from former Soviet states - many abused and held here against their will - were detained, along with 13 employers, in Jerusalem late Monday night in a city-wide police bust.

The prostitutes were brought to the country illegally and face expulsion. A police spokesman said the 13 escort service and brothel owners and managers face criminal charges and will be remanded today.

Several of the prostitutes said their employers took their identity papers to prevent them from fleeing. They reported being beaten and kept in terrible conditions in

cheap hotels and rented apartments.

The spokesman also said that several of the women detained were minors.

Police said the employers detained were largely CIS immigrants who had used their connections to the criminal world in their former homelands to locate the women and obtain false identification papers for them.

Another prostitute, Svetlana Zinginstora, who was arrested two months ago in a raid on a Tel Aviv massage parlor, is only 15 years old, the Interior Ministry

announced yesterday. She had been brought into the country illegally and lied about her name and age when arrested.

The Interior Ministry worked with the Moldavian Consulate to discover the teenager's identity. The ministry has asked police to take action against the owners of the massage parlor.

Last week it was revealed that a prostitute from the Commonwealth of Independent States was beaten to death two months ago by several workers at a brothel in the Talpiot industrial zone where she had worked. Her body was only recently identified. (Iim contributed to this report.)

# Resident files NIS 100m. suit against Bezeq for overcharging for calls

A COMPUTER engineer yesterday filed a NIS 101.5 million suit against Bezeq in Tel Aviv District Court, claiming the company has been consistently overcharging customers for international calls.

The engineer, Yosef Barazani, has asked the court to recognize the suit as a class-action suit. According to Barazani, Bezeq has been misleading customers by advertising that international calls are charged strictly by the number of minutes and seconds the customer spends on the phone.

In fact, the suit said, Bezeq calculates charges by the number of message units, with each minute being worth a certain number of message units; a more expensive call is more message units per minute than a cheaper call. A message unit currently costs 29 agorot.

What happens, Barazani claimed, is that when

Bezeq records the length of a call and then translates it into message units, this translation usually results in a remainder of fractions of message units. According to Barazani, Bezeq always rounds these fractions upward to the next whole message unit, leading customers to pay a bit more for the call than the call actually warrants.

While it is true that customers pay only a few agorot more per call, and few people would give much thought to these tiny overpayments, Bezeq, over the past seven years, has improperly charged NIS 101.5m. on all long distance calls made by all of its customers, Barazani claimed.

Assuming there are 2.5 million phone customers, each customer has been overcharged NIS 40.60, the suit concluded. Bezeq has not yet submitted its response. (Iim)

# Patients' Rights Law takes effect

JUDY SIEGEL

versus medical technology."

The law was jointly prepared by the Health and Justice Ministries and the Knesset Labor and Social Affairs Committee. It complements the Basic Law: Human Rights and Freedom as well as other laws dealing with the health system's organization and functioning.

The National Health Insurance Law, which took effect 19 months ago, set down the rights of all res-

idents to an "egalitarian basket of health services," but didn't deal with medical professionals' personal obligations to their patients.

Under the new law, which was passed a few months ago, every patient has the right to know the identity of those who will treat him and their titles; to obtain a second opinion from another doctor; and to receive a comprehensive explanation of the treatment

and possible complications before he grants his consent.

Under the Patients' Rights Law, ethics committees will be appointed in all public hospitals to deal with queries and complaints about medical information and with cases in which the patient cannot give his consent (the patient may appoint a proxy to make decisions in his place). The law also legalizes additional norms of behavior that every patient may demand, the ministry said yesterday.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

**Jerusalemite drowns in Kinneret**  
Haim Levy, 40, of Jerusalem, drowned yesterday while swimming at the Kinneret Beach on Lake Kinneret. His body washed up on the shore about an hour after he disappeared. He was swimming at a beach without a lifeguard. (Iim)

**Civil service academics declare work dispute**  
The union of academic workers in the humanities and social sciences has declared a work dispute in the civil service, following the decision to appoint deputy director-generals to government ministries on a political basis. The union is considering legal action, including an appeal to the High Court of Justice, union secretary Reuven Goldberg said yesterday. The union has some 35,000 members. (Iim)

**Miller threatens hunger strike over teen**  
Jerusalem deputy mayor Haim Miller (United Torah Judaism) threatened yesterday to begin a hunger strike within 48 hours unless a haredi minor, arrested during the recent Shabbat demonstrations on Rehov Bar-Ilan, is freed immediately. The 14-year-old was arrested three weeks ago after throwing stones at police and passing cars. His lawyer appealed to the High Court of Justice but Judge Dalia Domer refused to release him. Miller visited the boy yesterday. (Iim)

**Fire razes forest at Umm el-Fahm**  
Sixty dunams of forest and olive groves near the town of Umm el-Fahm went up in flames yesterday. Dozens of fire engines and JNF teams were called to the site to help fight the blaze, which broke out at about 2 p.m. Police arrested a resident of Umm el-Fahm on suspicion of arson. (Jerusalem Post Staff)

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# NATO enforces Serb site inspection

News agencies

A top commander inspected a disputed military site with the Bosnian Serbs' political leader yesterday, after the NATO-led peace force refused to wink at a violation of the Dayton accord.

Lt. Gen. Sir Michael Walker, commander of the peace force's ground troops in Bosnia, picked up acting president Biljana Plavcic for a helicopter ride to Han Pijesak, the Bosnian Serb military headquarters in eastern Bosnia.

Afterwards, he said he had seen the facility and pronounced his day successful. He added that he had agreed with the Serbs on ways to prevent reoccurrences of the dispute, while Plavcic said only that some things had been smoothed out. Neither gave details.

Walker had promised a "full inspection" of the site, described by NATO spokesman Maj. Brett Boudreau as primarily a headquarters, not a weapons cache.

The visit was also a test of the influence of Plavcic, who recently replaced Radovan Karadzic, a NATO official said on condition of anonymity. Karadzic, as an indicted war crimes suspect, is barred from office under the Dayton accord.

NATO troops across Bosnia are on alert because the Serbs refused to allow an inspection of the site on Saturday, violating Dayton, and because of signs that Iranian terrorists planned to bomb US troops.

The alert, dubbed Operation Fear

Naught, signaled to the Serbs that more resolute action would follow continued non-compliance, NATO officials said.

It will continue in Serb-held territory until the inspection is completed to NATO's satisfaction, Walker said.

In Brussels, the United States and NATO pledged their determination yesterday to create the best possible conditions for crucial elections in Bosnia next month despite rising regional tensions.

But US Secretary of State Warren Christopher and NATO Secretary General Javier Solana both agreed that the road ahead was far from smooth, as exemplified by the incident of the Serb refusal to allow IFOR to inspect the ammunition dump.

"We will find some bumps in the road. We found some yesterday. IFOR will do its best so that no violations are permitted of the Dayton (peace) Agreement," Solana told a news conference after meeting Christopher in Brussels.

"We are facing a very crucial moment, the moment of the elections," he said. "The moment when the citizens of Bosnia will have the opportunity to elect their representatives and have the possibility to look to the future and stop looking to the past."

Christopher, who earlier met the

supreme allied commander Europe, General George Joulwan of the United States and today will be in Geneva to meet the presidents of Croatia, Serbia and Bosnia, echoed Solana's vow to create the best possible conditions for the September 14 poll.

"The most critical priority in coming weeks is to ensure that there will be a secure environment and that there will be the kind of freedom of movement which makes possible a democratic election," he said.

US and alliance officials are realistic enough to accept that the conditions for the election will be far from ideal.

But they stress that only a year ago, when NATO agreed to use force to defend the so-called safe havens in Bosnia after Srebrenica and Zepa were overrun by the Bosnian Serbs, the holding of elections was not even a remote possibility.

"These are not going to be pristine conditions for elections," State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns said. "This is not going to look like a town in Germany, or France or the United States on polling day. We're not going to create those conditions in 31 days."

The voting is intended to create common institutions for the two-part Bosnian state agreed in last year's Dayton accord dividing Bosnia into a Serb entity and a Moslem-Croat federation.



Police guard the wreckage of a Spanish executive jet which crashed on landing at RAF Northolt in west London yesterday. The Learjet broke in two after smashing through the perimeter fence and hit a van on the main road nearby. Four people were injured in the accident. (Reuters)

# SA Moslem banker arrested for vigilante violence

News agencies

CAPE TOWN

A Moslem banker was charged yesterday in the vigilante execution of a suspected drug lord in Cape Town's tense gangland.

Nadhmi Edries, 37, was charged with sedition and could face more charges. He was to be jailed pending the outcome of a bail hearing scheduled tomorrow.

Edries is a leader of People Against Gangsterism and Drugs, or Pagad, which has in recent weeks organized numerous protests in front of the homes of suspected drug traffickers.

Masked Pagad members shot and burned to death Hard Living Kids leader Rashaad Staggie in front of his house.

Staggie's twin-brother Rashid Staggie has threatened a blood bath if his brother's killers are not brought to justice.

Police spokesman John Stenberg said yesterday that more arrests could be expected. Police visited the houses of at least two other Pagad leaders night, but did not find anyone at home. They also raided the houses of four suspected drug traffickers, but made no arrests.

Members of both the gangs and the vigilante group are mostly Moslem, mixed-race South Africans relegated to some of Cape Town's poorest neighborhoods under apartheid. They trace their ancestry to Moslem and Malaysian slaves who were brought to the country in

the 19th century.

The gangs have existed for decades, but have grown more powerful and dangerous with the rise of the drug trade in recent years. Police have been unable to contain the resulting crime, fueling the vigilante campaign.

South African police have suggested that the emergence of a Moslem vigilante movement is part of a plot to establish an Islamic state, but academics and Moslem leaders scoff at the idea.

Police Director Leonard Knipe said in a television interview that members of the Cape Town-based (Pagad) had as their ultimate aim creation of an Islamic government.

A confidential police report compiled in April but leaked to the press last week said South Africa was on the verge of infiltration by extremist Islamic fundamentalists who had the backing of countries like Iran and Libya.

By Hassan Vally, a community leader in the largely Indian district of Lenasia outside Johannesburg, said police were raising the issue of an Islamic state as a way of diverting attention from the real issue, which was crime.

"Moslems paid a heavy price in the fight against apartheid, but they

never said then we were fighting to bring in an Islamic state," Vally said.

"Why do they say it now when we are fighting crime? They are trying to shift the focus. We are not dreamers, we are a minority here, how are we going to establish an Islamic state?"

Vally said drugs, violent crime and sexual promiscuity were like a cancer destroying the youth of South Africa, Moslem and non-Moslem alike.

"Our homes are barricaded, you can't go and whistle a tune in the park without being mugged. We have come out of one type of oppression into another."

Mark Shaw, a researcher at the independent Institute for Defense Policy think tank, said the basic problem highlighted by Pagad's campaign was the failure of South Africa's criminal justice system.

"Bringing up the Islam issue is just an easy escape route for the police," Shaw said.

Ismael Jaffer, a lecturer in Islamic studies at the University of South Africa, said Moslem communities throughout South Africa were flooded with drugs.

"The Pagad people have been going to the police for two years, but the police shoved them aside... Moslem leaders are supporting Pagad on the issue of justice, not on any ideological issue."

# Republicans unite behind Dole

News agencies

SAN DIEGO

REPUBLICANS basked yesterday in the glow of the man many wanted to run for president, retired general Colin Powell, as their slickly packaged convention unleashed a drumbeat attack on President Bill Clinton.

"It was a great night. We got off to a good start," presidential candidate Bob Dole said happily after the first convention session promoted an image for voters of a party with open arms promising new and visionary leadership for America.

The popular general who wouldn't run called candidate Bob Dole a "man of strength, maturity and integrity" as Republicans opened their presidential nominating convention.

The Powell tribute and speeches by two former presidents followed adoption by delegates of a platform more extreme than their nominee on some foreign policy and other issues.

Dole, buoyed by enthusiastic acceptance of running mate Jack Kemp and a belated endorsement from his last remaining rival, Pat Buchanan, promised that "the era of Bill Clinton is about over." Dole said after the opening sessions, "It was a great night. We're off to a great start."

He also hailed new polls showing him, for the first time, within 10 percentage points of President Clinton.

But Dole spoke outside the convention and

would not appear in the ball until its close. It was retired Gen. Powell who played the starring role.

Powell, who consistently scored higher than Dole in polls across America before he rejected a try for the nomination, urged Americans to support Dole and Kemp and called for Republicans to blend tolerance and compassion with its conservatism.

"In an era of too much salesmanship and too much smooth-talking, Bob Dole is a plain-spoken man," Powell said in a rousing speech that served as his national debut as a politician. The general who led troops in the Gulf War only recently proclaimed himself a Republican.

"A man of strength, maturity and integrity, he is a man who can bring trust back to government and bring Americans together again," Powell said of Dole.

But some delegates booed when Powell noted his support for abortion rights and affirmative action programs to correct the effects of discrimination against minorities. The boos turned back to cheers as Powell went on to say:

"We are a big enough party, and big enough people, to disagree on individual issues and still

work together for our common goal: restoring the American dream."

The last Republican president, George Bush, took aim at the man who defeated him in 1992, saying, "It breaks my heart when the White House is demeaned, the presidency diminished." Paying tribute to Dole's World War II heroism and decades as a loyal Republican, Bush said of Dole: "He will be a president we can look up to. He will do us proud."

Former President Gerald Ford, who had picked Dole as his vice presidential running mate in an unsuccessful 1976 bid for re-election, said, "I found Bob Dole fit to be president then; I find him even more qualified today."

In the most poignant moment of the evening, former first lady Nancy Reagan, paid tribute to her husband, unable to attend because of Alzheimer's disease.

She said Reagan's optimism was still "very strong" and, if he could speak, he would urge Republicans "never, never give up on America."

Buchanan, a conservative who has been attacking Dole for months, said he was endorsing the party's sure nominee because the delegates had adopted much of his agenda, including opposition to abortion, repeal of affirmative action laws favoring minorities and tough immigration laws.

# Russians, Chechens fight on

GROZNY (Reuters) - Fighting raged in Grozny yesterday as Russian troops tried to claw back territory lost when rebels seized much of the Chechen capital eight days ago.

The commanders of the two sides met to discuss a ceasefire. Interfax news agency reported from rebel headquarters. An hour after talks began there was no word of their progress.

Throughout the day mortar bombs, shells and rockets crashed down on the city and refugees had to run a gauntlet of bullets and explosions to flee their homes.

Despite an army statement on Monday that Russian forces had halted air strikes, helicopter gunships rocketed positions close to where women and children were struggling to cross a river.

"Please tell them to open a corridor," pleaded Ruisa Sukhanova, as she fled with her baby across a railway bridge. "There are thousands of people trapped back there."

Sukhoi warplanes flew over a southern suburb, sending up a huge black cloud when a bomb apparently hit an oil storage area.

"There's your ceasefire for you," another woman said. Representatives of Chechnya's pro-Moscow authorities accused

the army of firing on civilians and stopping thousands of them from leaving Grozny, home to 400,000 people before Russia sent soldiers to crush the region's independence bid in 1994.

More than 30,000 people have died since then and hundreds, possibly thousands, are thought to have been killed in the heaviest fighting for 18 months, which started on August 6.

"Tens of thousands of people are trapped on the outskirts of Grozny without food supplies and with a catastrophic lack of medicine," a statement by a Chechen mission in Moscow said.

The Russian migration service said it had received 10 billion roubles (\$2 million) to cope with a new wave of homeless refugees from Grozny, numbering in the tens of thousands.

The European Commission in Brussels approved an aid package worth \$5.3 million for Chechnya, bringing total European Union assistance to nearly \$45 million in 20 months of war.

EU experts reckon more than 100,000 Chechens need food and up to half the population of about 1.2 million requires medical aid.

At a hospital in Urus-Martan, south of Grozny, hard-pressed doctors operated on gaping wounds

# French Africans widen protest

PARIS (Reuters) - African immigrants on the 40th day of a hunger strike to demand the right to stay in France were unbowed yesterday after a police bid to end their protest, vowing to keep up the fast as supporters joined it.

The eviction of the 10 hunger strikers from a Paris church by riot police on Monday earned the center-right government a barrage of criticism and threats of legal action. It also led to the widening of the protest.

Police took the 10 to hospitals after the raid on the Saint-Bernard church. But by the end of Monday they were back at the church.

A spokesman for the hunger strikers' support group said some 50 volunteers from human rights associations were fasting yesterday in solidarity with the Africans.

The government, anxious not to lose more voters to the far-right anti-immigrant National Front, stood its ground and pledged no concessions would be made.

The hunger strikers, chiefly Malians in their late 20s or early 30s, have said that doctors released them after they refused to take food at the hospitals.

Human rights groups and the opposition Socialist party condemned the police action, labelled a "martial display" by the left-leaning daily Liberation.

It quoted several lawyers as saying they planned to sue the Paris police chief for alleged infringement of the hunger strikers' freedom.

Police said the raid was ordered on health grounds. But a member of the medical relief group Medecins du Monde quoted a health official as saying it was "not a medical decision."

"This is obviously an illegal act which violates the freedom of the individual," said attorney Didier Leger, who added that the main aim of the raid had been to stage a publicity stunt.

# Cyprus accuses Turkey of 'Islamic terrorism'

NICOSIA (AP) - Amid growing tension, Foreign Minister Alcosos Michaelides accused Turkey yesterday of sending Islamic terrorists to break up Greek Cypriots' protests against Turkey's occupation of the northern part of the island.

He also protested to the UN Security Council, calling on it to denounce Turkey for the killing Sunday of a Greek Cypriot by the so-called Gray Wolves organization during clashes along the "Green Line" that divides Cyprus into Christian Greek and Moslem Turkish sectors.

Tassos Isaac, 24, was battered to death by a mob with iron bars and clubs during the clashes, the east Mediterranean island's worst sectarian violence since Turkey invaded in 1974 and seized the northern sector.

More than 40 other Greek Cypriots were injured, along with 12 Turkish Cypriot policemen in the fighting, which has sharply heightened tension on the island amid renewed friction between Greece and

Turkey. Turkey, which maintains some 30,000 troops in the north, has been upgrading its forces in recent months, while the Greek Cypriots have been acquiring advanced weapons systems for their outnumbered 10,000-strong National Guard.

"That mob were members of the extreme Islamic Gray Wolves group, who were specially sent to Cyprus from Turkey to confront the peaceful anti-occupation demonstration," Michaelides told a news conference.

"At a time when the whole world is condemning terrorism, the Security Council must not tolerate the dispatch of a terrorist group to Cyprus specifically to kill Greek Cypriots protesting peacefully," he added.

Michaelides warned that it could be impossible to prevent Greek Cypriots from demonstrating against the occupation and Ankara's refusal to allow Greek Cypriot refugees from 1974 to return to their homes in the north.

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# Gaza establishes its own TV soap

DIANNA CAHN  
GAZA CITY

**A**YOUB Akhras spent four years in Israeli jails for supporting Palestinian militants. Salah Kadoumi spent 22 years in exile. Now they are masterminding a new project: Palestinian TV's first serial television series.

As producer and director of *Fishermen's Nights*, they are leading the latest breakthrough in the Palestinians' march toward self-determination.

The low-budget series, using mostly props found on local beaches, begins airing in January. Its 39 episodes weave Palestinian history — under Israeli rule, through rebellion to the current autonomy — into a maze of crime, personal tragedy and unrequited love.

"The fishermen and their problems of poverty under the occupation are a reflection of Palestinian society," said 45-year-old Kadoumi, the energetic director. "Camera! Sound! Action!" Kadoumi bellowed through a megaphone across a Gaza beach, ordering his nine actors into place for filming this week.

On cue, drug-peddling fisherman Abu Sharr stuffs the head of his colleague Jamil into a bucket of water and threatens to slit his throat.

Jamil, suspected of stealing Abu Sharr's supplies, pleads innocence. Abu Sharr, whose name means "Father of Evil," finally lets the whimpering Jamil go free.

"Cut," shouted Kadoumi, satisfied with the take.

Although Kadoumi says drama is at the core of the show, politics is also in the air.

"During the intifada the Israelis controlled all this and we could not film on location," said actor Akram Obeid, 29, who once worked as a house painter in Israel. "There is no doubt that the peace process gives us the full freedom for actors to work."

The Israeli government did not

provide funding for Palestinian art, theater or cinema. The few directors and producers there were raised their own money. Palestinian television did not exist.

*Fishermen's Nights* is the first large-scale mini-series to be shown by the Palestinians' only television station, which also airs newscasts, smaller series and a handful of special programs.

Akhras, the producer, said he spent his four years in jails for aiding the Fatah Hawks, once associated with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat. Kadoumi spent 22 years in exile, returning in 1994 when Gaza gained autonomy. Like many, he fled the West Bank shortly after 1967.

Kadoumi, who earned a communications doctorate in Bulgaria, said that with *Fishermen's Nights*, he is aiming for a delicate "European" touch, distinct from the sometimes overwrought local fare.

The show is careful not to offend its target audience. A young woman is covered in traditional dress, and although she has a secret boyfriend, the couple never kisses onscreen.

"It would not be appropriate for our audience, for the Arabic culture," explained Kadoumi. "We don't believe in this kind of love."

Kadoumi refused to discuss his budget, which is provided by the impoverished Palestinian Authority, which runs the lone TV station.

But he pointed out that the costumes were regular clothing and most of the props, from the fishing boats to an abandoned pier that collapsed two years ago in mid-construction, were simply found on the beach.

Kadoumi conceded the acting still needs work.

"During the past years, these actors and artists were not nurtured or utilized, so they are not the best," he said. "Their work reflects the society in which they live." (AP)

# King Hussein moves closer to repairing Saudi ties

ANALYSIS  
MICHAEL GEORGY

**K**ING Hussein of Jordan's political maneuvering has paid off once again with a visit to Saudi Arabia this week that took Amman much closer to healing a deep rift with one of the Middle East's most powerful players.

"This is a very significant visit. It's a sign that things are warming up but that's not to say relations have been completely repaired," said a Western diplomat in Riyadh.

King Hussein, renowned for his shrewd knack for navigating the region's political minefields, arrived in Saudi Arabia to be greeted by King Fahd at the airport in their first encounter since the 1990 Gulf crisis caused by Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

The visit, which included talks with King Fahd, marked a rapprochement between the two Arab monarchs after six years of bitterness over the 1991 Gulf war.

"Jordan has always been able to conduct a balancing act with its neighbors. King Hussein has distanced himself from the Iraqis and this has brought him closer to the Saudis," said another Western diplomat.

"King Hussein also knows that Jordan lost out badly as a result of its stand in the Gulf war in terms of aid from the West and the Gulf. This is part of his strategy to move into the Western camp."

But other analysts linked Saudi Arabia's willingness to mend ties with Jordan to American pressure.

"The reconciliation does in part with American efforts to unify moderate Arab states in the peace process," said a diplomat.

King Hussein's presence was ignored by the official Saudi news agency.

But King Fahd hosted a banquet in King Hussein's honor attended by senior Saudi officials including Crown Prince Abdullah and Defense Minister Prince Sultan.

King Hussein's efforts to reconcile with Saudi Arabia gained significant momentum when he turned against Iraqi President Saddam Hussein after the defection of two senior Iraqi officers to Jordan a year ago.

A Western diplomat in Riyadh said Saudi Arabia wanted to retain influence over all players in the Middle East peace process, including Jordan.

Saudi Arabia, a key US ally, has recently witnessed a flurry of diplomatic activity centered on the peace process with visits to the kingdom by Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Palestinian President Yasser Arafat.

A Saudi analyst said the time had come for reconciliation with Jordan, adding that Riyadh needed Amman's cooperation in fighting terrorism.

"King Hussein was punished enough. You can't always be angry at your neighbor. We need Jordan's help in combating terrorism," the analyst said.

Jordan, which has a history of close security cooperation with Gulf states, gave Saudi Arabia a file on Moslem fundamentalist groups and pro-Iranian guerrillas to help its investigation into the June 25 bombing that killed 19 US airmen in Dhahran, Jordanian officials said. (Reuters)

## Kuwait rejects Arafat's overtures

**K**UWAIT this week dismissed a call by Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat to put aside grudges over the 1991 Gulf war, saying Arafat had first to condemn Iraq's 1990 invasion and acknowledge Kuwait suffering in the crisis.

"Leaders in the Third World do not have the courage to apologize for their mistakes and say 'I am sorry', so Kuwaitis have never asked Arafat to apologize," said foreign ministry undersecretary Suleiman al-Shaheen.

"But he does have to show that he recognizes that Kuwaitis suffered — because, after all, his own people have suffered a lot," al-Shaheen said.

Arafat last month criticized Kuwait for expelling thousands of Palestinians because of his "mistake against Kuwait" in the Gulf crisis. He urged Kuwait to let bygones be bygones and said Palestinians in Kuwait, one of the wealthiest communities of the Palestinian diaspora, lost \$12.6 billion during the crisis.

Kuwait was angered by Arafat's sympathy for Baghdad during Iraq's seven-month occupation of Kuwait in 1990-91 and severed ties with the PLO, including generous funding for the group.

Shaheen added: "Arafat has to show his pain and feeling for the suffering of the people of Kuwait and condemn the occupation by Iraq and condemn invasions as a means of solving problems." (Reuters)



A Jordanian worker carries bread for customers at a bakery in Amman yesterday. The government on Monday announced an increase in the price of bread as part of a move to remove wheat subsidies. (Reuters)

## Egypt denies seeking Sudan airline ban

**E**GYPTIAN President Hosni Mubarak has denied Sudanese accusations that Egypt wrote a draft resolution that would ban all international flights by Sudan's national airline.

The draft is expected to be discussed in the UN Security Council this week. The ban would prohibit flights by Sudan Airways abroad. Foreign airlines would be allowed to continue flying to the Sudanese capital Khartoum, according to newspaper reports.

If passed, the ban would broaden diplomatic sanctions imposed against Sudan since May for its failure to hand over two suspects in the attempt on Mubarak's life in Ethiopia in June 1995. He was unhurt in the attack.

Mubarak said that Egypt was consulting with UN members about the ban and implied that Egypt was not in favor of it.

"Egypt does not agree with choking an entire people to face terrorism," Mubarak was quoted as saying by the state-run Al-

Ahram daily. However, he also urged the Sudanese government to stop its alleged support of terrorism.

Sudan has always denied the suspects are in its territory. Sudanese President Omar el-Bashir told Sudanese Television that he welcomed any investigating team to examine his government's efforts to find the suspects, Egypt's Middle East News Agency said.

Relations between Sudan and Egypt have deteriorated sharply since the attack on Mubarak. They appeared to be on the brink of improvement when the two leaders met on the sidelines of an Arab summit in June and agreed to efforts to sort out their differences.

But in his comments to the editors, Mubarak said a joint Egyptian-Sudanese security committee had failed to reach any results because of the Sudanese "policy of procrastination" on Egyptian demands concerning terrorism. He did not elaborate. (AP)

# Iran faces disillusionment

ANTHONY SHADID  
TEHERAN

**T**HE mural of an American flag with the red streaks of rockets and white skulls as stars is a curious relic. The weekly chants of "Death to Israel" at Tehran University sound more rehearsed than revolutionary.

And the seemingly endless war of words between Teheran and Washington plays itself out once again, this time against a backdrop of economic hardship, political disillusionment and Iranian ambivalence toward the West.

The government dismisses as baseless the suggestion by US officials earlier this month that Iran might have had a hand in the June 25 bombing that killed 19 US servicemen in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia.

Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati complains that Washington is "looking for an excuse for adventurism." The English-language *Iran News* warns that Iranian forces should be put on alert. "One should expect all kinds of irrationalities and absurdities from a US president in an election year," it said in an editorial.

That the suggestions came as President Clinton signed legislation to penalize foreign companies investing in Libya and Iran reinforced an attitude here that the Islamic republic is being made a scapegoat. It's an outlook shared even by those critical of the regime.

"Iranians are continually suspicious of what the Americans want to do, and American policy-makers nourish such suspicions," said

25-year-old who identified himself only as Shuan said. "You grew up with hope in America. Here we don't have any hope." (AP)

Iran's government. A parliament that took office in the spring re-elected a powerful hard-line speaker. Next year, voters will pick a successor to moderate President Hashemi Rafsanjani.

Intellectuals have publicly proposed that the nature of the government should be reconsidered. Abdel-Karim Soroush, an Islamic intellectual, has even suggested that mosque and state might better be based by separation.

On the other hand, authorities in recent months have vigorously enforced Islamic law — cracking down on dress code violations, public gatherings of young men and women, and private parties where alcohol is served.

A Teheran youth center exemplifies the somewhat contradictory attitude demonstrated toward the West.

At the government-built center, teenagers can study English along with piano and violin. The center offers concerts of Beethoven and Mozart. A theater under construction soon will present "Les Miserables."

Young Iranians, especially the wealthy, crave Western music and fashion and many use illicit satellite dishes to learn about trends. They chafe at the social restrictions the government has imposed.

"In this country, people only have the right to breathe, nothing else," a

## Soldier fools Iraqis, escapes to Egypt

**A**N Iraqi army deserter who tricked both his countrymen and Egyptian diplomats into believing he was an Egyptian laborer has escaped to Egypt to request political asylum, Egyptian police said.

Ahmed Ahmed Ali, 32, was allowed by police to tell his story to reporters, saying he fled Iraq because of political repression and increasing poverty under UN Security Council sanctions.

Ali arrived in the Red Sea port of Nuweiba at the weekend after fooling Iraqi officials and Egyptian diplomats by speaking Arabic with an Egyptian accent, said police sources, who spoke under custom-

ary rules of anonymity.

He claimed he was from Mansura north of Cairo but had lost his identity papers. Many Egyptians worked as laborers in Iraq prior to the 1991 Gulf war.

Iraqi authorities turned him over to Egyptian diplomats in Baghdad, who gave him money to go home. He asked for asylum on arrival, and Egypt is considering his case.

"Kill me here, but don't send me back to Iraq," Ali quoted himself as pleading to passport officials.

He told reporters that in Iraq there is oppression and hunger. Women sell themselves for food, and whoever speaks out is either jailed or killed. (AP)

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A foreign problem

THE number of foreign workers in Israel has ballooned from 16,000 in 1990 to over 200,000 today, about half of them illegal. While it is perhaps flattering that the Israeli economy has become sufficiently prosperous to attract workers from central Europe, south Asia, Africa, and the Arab world, this influx may be planting the seeds of the problems that now plague western European nations that have followed a similar path.

At the moment, Israel's foreign workers seem to be solving a problem - they reduce labor costs without posing the security risk that Palestinian workers do. Deputy Minister of Construction and Housing Meir Porush has protested calls to reduce foreign labor saying it would hurt the construction sector "at the peak of its activity."

But a closer look at the European experience reveals that an economy can become addicted to foreign workers in a way that is difficult to shake.

In Tel Aviv, for example, every sixth resident is a foreign worker, if the estimated figure of 70,000 foreign workers in the city is accurate. Some neighborhoods in the poorer parts of the city, are turning into run-down, foreign enclaves. As in Europe, the profile of the foreign worker is shifting from the young single man with a work permit, to young families with children, all of whom are in Israel illegally. These children, according to a study conducted in Tel Aviv by city councillor Michael Ro'i, are placing an ever-increasing burden on the city's mother-and-child clinics. At present, these children, once they reach school age, are generally sent back to their grandparents in their countries of origin. But should this change, the educational system will have to decide how to handle a sudden influx of non-Jewish, largely non-Hebrew-speaking pupils.

While governments seem to think that the process of absorbing foreign workers is easily reversible in the event of an economic slowdown, in practice it becomes increasingly difficult to reduce the number of these workers once the economy has become dependent upon them and they become increasingly entrenched in the fabric of society.

Moreover, while replacing Palestinian workers with foreigners may reduce security risks, it leads to economic suffering on the other side of the Green Line, which, if allowed to continue, may prove to be a time bomb that could explode in Israel's face. According to Terje Larsen, the UN special coordinator for the territories, each Palestinian working in Israel supports some 10 people inside the Palestinian Authority.

ruled areas, and every 10,000 workers in Israel per annum brings in about \$20 million revenues for the PA. Palestinians also pose a distinct advantage over foreign workers: They go home to their towns and villages when the day is done, and thus cannot develop into a financial or social burden.

While most Israelis intuitively feel that closures increase their security - and there have been fewer terrorist attacks during closures - it is hard to think of a single case in recent times of a Palestinian worker with a permit committing a terrorist act. Indeed, there is a serious security argument for lifting the closure and increasing the numbers of Palestinian workers allowed to work in Israel. Without substantial numbers of Palestinians working in Israel, the threat of future closures ceases to become an incentive for the PA to cooperate in fighting terrorism.

There is some government recognition that something must be done. US Undersecretary of Commerce Stuart Eizenstadt has urged Israel to make room for Palestinians by expelling 100,000 foreign workers, and Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu expressed understanding for Eizenstadt's appeal. The prime minister also told the Forum of Arab Council Heads this week that he would try to increase the number of Palestinians allowed to work in Israel while an inter-ministerial committee chaired by Labor and Social Affairs Minister Acting Director-General Asber Pri-Har will reportedly recommend reducing the foreign work force by 20,000 by next April.

Netanyahu, in fact, has been using the incremental easing of the closure as a gift he can dispense upon arrival in each Arab capital. In both Cairo and Amman, Netanyahu announced that a few thousand more Palestinian workers will be allowed into Israel, and at a press conference with Arab journalists he made clear that he has no ideological commitment to the closure and views it purely as a security measure.

Obviously, the closure cannot be lifted, even partially, if there is a threat to security. Such a threat can be minimized by enhancing the screening process that is already being employed in granting work permits to Palestinians. Identification checks and protections against document forgery should also be carefully implemented.

When talking of closures, it is time to view our security and the national interest from angles that have not been considered in the past, such as the need to reduce dependence on foreign workers, the importance of resuscitating the Palestinian economy, and giving the Palestinians something to lose in the face of terror.



'Settlemania' in silence

A bull rampaging through a china shop. A relentless bulldozer destroying everything in its path. It's Ariel Sharon, and he's back.

One could compare him to a drug addict who has been in withdrawal for the last four years but has now been given access to a huge stash of narcotics - narcotics called "settlements." However, the comparison wouldn't quite be right, because Sharon's settlement activities were in full swing during the last four years, thanks to the diligent efforts of Peres and Co.

This most frightening realization comes as the Likud's takeover tears away the previous government's veil of hypocrisy and lies. The facts speak for themselves: in four years of a Labor-Meretz government, the settler ranks grew by 40,000, a figure unmatched by any four-year period of Likud rule.

Stealthily, dishonestly, like thieves in the night. One hand signed the Oslo Accords, promising: "a historic reconciliation between two peoples," while the other hand continued to build settlements. "We had no choice," explained the hypocrites when they were caught in the act. "Sharon had signed agreements to build ten thousand homes, and we had no choice."

This, of course, is a lie. When the previous government first came to power, I spoke with then-housing minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer. He told me that the government was considering enacting a law to void the contracts of the settlement, offering the building companies suitable compensation in exchange. This compensation would have been a small fraction of what was ultimately spent in settlement construction.

The Labor-Meretz government had the choice, but did not make it. Instead, the government even went so far as to build the roads which Sharon's plan called for, such as the circumferential road

URI AVNERY

around Ramallah. This road does not serve any populace, not even the settlers. It is solely intended as a prison wall surrounding the city, there to prevent the city's normal development and growth. Who built it? The Labor-Meretz government. The bottom line: for four years, that government enacted Ariel Sharon's programs and policies.

SHARON HIMSELF went to the trouble of explaining the goal of his settlement policies: to hack the Palestinian territories to pieces, in order to enclose the Palestinians in narrow ghettos - small islands in a sea of Israeli occupation. Each

The previous government enacted Sharon's programs and policies

Palestinian town would be choked off by a belt of settlements and bypass roads, so that at a moment's notice it could be put under closure, starved and subdued.

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu has already made it clear that he shares this grand vision. "The Palestinians should direct their own lives" within these enclaves, he says, "but the responsibility for security will remain in our hands." In other words, the occupation will endure forever.

Now, just two months after the elections, Shimon Peres has declared his opposition to his protégé Yossi Beilin's plan for final status. Beilin proposed a shrunken map of a Palestinian state, full annexation of the settlement blocs to Israel, and some intellectual exercises over Jerusalem. Apparently, the architect of the

"New Middle East" does not agree even to these minimal concessions.

So what does Peres believe in? Sharon's plan, in different wrapping. Now it is clear that Oslo II was created for just this purpose. The borders of Area C match Sharon's plans almost perfectly: an Israeli sea of occupation engulfing Palestinian ghettos.

A question: where was Meretz while the settlements were swelling by almost 50 percent? Where was Peace Now? Now, suddenly the left is returning to action, promising to monitor the rapid settlement growth.

For four years they were silent. For four years they silenced their own supporters and even the devoted media. Why? Because the settlement policy was perpetrated by their own government - their Labor, their Meretz. And now settlement growth can proceed apace, in full view, with insatiable lust, by Sharon, the original settlemani-ac himself.

Such a policy was already tried in South Africa. There they referred to ghettos as "bantustans." The Bantu tribes were given a few "homelands," in which they could "direct their own lives" under the watchful eye of the surrounding white government. We know how that turned out: just ask Nelson Mandela.

The Palestinians are no Bantu tribes. More than one hundred nations now recognize the State of Palestine, whose flag proudly flew alongside those of the other nations at the Olympics. And indeed, there can be no peace without establishing a Palestinian state alongside the State of Israel.

Sharon's entire plan is, of course, intended to prevent such a possibility, to prevent peace forever. But the real shame belongs to Labor and Meretz, for squandering the last four years enacting Sharon's policies when they could have made peace instead.

The writer heads the Peace Bloc.

Onward to Mars?

GWYNE DYER

"The climate is good for solar system exploration," said Glenn Carle, chief of the solar system exploration branch at the NASA-Ames Research Centre in California. And then, slipping into the Columbus-and-Queen Isabella analogy that comes easily to people working in space exploration, he added: "It seems the queen has given us new ships."

Trouble is, he said it back in 1988, and he was only talking about unmanned planetary probes, not real spaceships. The unmanned probes sent out by NASA have produced some spectacular fly-by photographs of our neighboring planets since then, but there has been nothing by way of deep-space exploration by actual human beings since the Apollo moon program was shut down, three trips short of the number originally planned, in 1972.

So will the recent announcement that primitive life once existed on Mars by a team of nine NASA-backed scientists finally make the queen give them some real ships to go to Mars in? And is that why NASA gave the announcement such huge publicity?

Second question first: of course it is. NASA's business is space exploration, and "if it comes across some scientific hypothesis that it believes will persuade the public to pay for the ships, it will back it hard. Nothing illegitimate there, and the scientists involved in the study are all people of high reputation who would not shade their conclusions to suit their sponsor.

More interesting, perhaps, is how the space agency tripped over this particular strategy for drumming up support. After all, the two unmanned Viking spacecraft that landed on Mars in 1976 carried experimental packages to search for signs of microbial life in the Martian soil - and the results were negative.

But 10 years later, in 1986, a NASA review conference on the Viking experiments (which got little publicity at the time) was told that the 1976 experiments had very probably found Martian micro-organisms in the soil samples tested by the robot

A manned Mars expedition is much more feasible and affordable than in the 1980s

mini-labs. The review of photographs, cultural shifts and rising ecological awareness by the mid-1980s were producing a public audience much likelier to be interested in the existence of life elsewhere in the universe.

The so-called "Mars Underground" at the agency, an informal network of people who never accepted the abandonment of NASA's original ambitions for manned interplanetary exploration, went looking for more evidence about extraterrestrial life that would satisfy a doubtful public. It looks like they have found it in the interior of an ancient rock knocked loose from Mars by an asteroid collision 15 million years ago that eventually fell in Antarctica.

So will they get their ships at last? Maybe. Space activity has survived the collapse of its original stimulus, the Cold War, and a new US space station and cost-efficient second-generation space shuttles are due to be ready within five or six years.

That would make a manned Mars expedition much more feasible and affordable - and late 20th-century environmental concerns make any investigation of the early origins and eventual fate of other cospheres a relatively easy sell. We have lived our whole history with only one example, and Mars could be a whole second example of how an ecosphere evolves.

1996 is a more cautious time than 1961, and more financially strapped, too, but it has recovered from the nadir of the mid-1980s.

What President Bill Clinton said was, for him, quivering on the brink of unequivocal: "The American space program will put its full intellectual power and technological prowess behind the search for further evidence of life on Mars."

Is that a promise to actually go there? No. But it's considerably better than what NASA has been used to hearing. The writer is a London-based independent journalist and historian.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

BREASTFEEDING Sir, - Thank you for your report of July 24 on the Israeli Childbirth Educational Center's condemnation of the Ministry of Health for violating the Innocenti Declaration of the World Health Organization on breastfeeding.

I have been a lactation counselor in the Negev region for 12 years, and in my experience, the neglect of the health of our nation's infants, children and mothers is outrageous. It is the job of the Ministry of Health and every health professional to promote breastfeeding, and this does not end with a nurse or doctor saying "breastfeeding is best." It is the job of the Ministry of Health, and of the nursing and medical schools, to educate their students that pacifiers are detrimental to breastfeeding and baby's health and why; that mother's milk is the standard and formula falls far short of it and why; that if breastfeeding doesn't seem to be working, before telling a mother to give formula or solids, an all-out effort must be made to determine why it's not working.

Why does the Ministry of Health allow infant formula to carry a label that they can be given from day one of life? Why does the Ministry of Health allow plain cornflour, a soup or gravy thickener with no nutritional value whatsoever, to be marketed with a baby's face on the

MORAL BANKRUPTCY Sir, - I refer to the article in Money of July 17, entitled "Return of the living Jews," about Israeli entrepreneurs boosting the Polish economy. It is truly a shame that Mr. Shmuel Dankner, who seems to possess such an acumen for business, can be so ignorant about his own Jewish history.

Your article states "that while the sound of German makes him shiver, he has less qualms when it comes to the Poles." My father lost all but two of a family of 200 in Poland during the war, and my mother, as an only child, lost her parents and many relatives. They were witness to the fact that the Poles were instrumental in helping the Nazis to destroy Polish Jewry, and that their unsurpassed enthusiasm in this task led to so many more Jewish lives being taken.

The fact remains that after the war, the surviving Jews were not afraid to live in Germany, but were terrified of even visiting their old homes in Poland to search for lost family members. The postwar pogrom in Kielce is only the most infamous of many. What is even worse is that these Jews were killed by Poles who had been their neighbors and had known them for most if not all of their lives.

Mr. Dankner may be far from financial bankruptcy, but the place where the mighty dollar rules without consideration as to what was done to previous Jewish generations is usually the same place where moral bankruptcy reigns supreme.

This man should reconsider his priorities in helping rebuild a country that was greatly responsible for the destruction of three million of its Jewish inhabitants. MIRIAM CUBAC Jerusalem.

SMOKING Sir, - I was disappointed that you approve of subliminal cigarette advertising. In the Time Out section of July 26, your front-page photo of the famous singer Shlomo Artzi with a cigarette shows poor taste. Many young people will see this photo and will want to emulate this popular singer. PETER SINGER Jerusalem.

Labor still rules

RUTH MATAR

It is very difficult for Jews in the Diaspora to fully comprehend the extent of power and control which the Labor Party, even when out of power, exercises over the day to day life here.

Economically, the Labor Party, through its supporters and its alter-ego, the Histadrut, maintains a tight-fisted control of the Israeli economy, and vigorously opposes all efforts of privatization that would threaten its virtual monopolistic hold on Israel's industry and commerce. At the same time, buttressed by their old socialist credo it is very hard, particularly in the public sector, to fire any worker here.

Unfortunately, the judiciary, whose members for the most part got their jobs through loyalty to the Labor establishment, is supportive of such an unhealthy and short-sighted protective policy. Thus, the normal changeover and housecleaning in public personnel that occurs after an election bringing a new party to power, does not happen in Israel. The old guard loyalists stay on, even in important governmental posts, making it extremely difficult for a new administration to work effectively.

The Labor government was busy to the last day filling ambassadorial posts with its own party loyalists, who could not be replaced by the new Netanyahu government. But even on the more important level of key foreign service employees, and in the vital area of communications, the judiciary, and even in the army itself, there are scores of irreplaceable employees who owe their loyalties elsewhere.

The recent post office scandal where Likud election literature was proven to have been jettisoned and not delivered by Labor Party members who held high positions in the Post Office, is just another example of the malady. Just an inkling of what is involved came to the fore indi-

rectly by a strong but objective statement made by Uzi Landau, the newly appointed Chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. He accused some former and present IDF officers of being yes-men to the previous Labor government, particularly concerning the Oslo accords as they affect Hebron and other areas in Judea and Samaria. The uproar that fol-

lowed was typical standard Labor character assassination of an opponent who dares reveal its improprieties. The defamation of Landau by Labor lackeys was given widespread coverage by the media, still controlled by Labor. Typically, the media gave most of its time and space to the Labor and Meretz opposition on the issues raised. That stalwart, non-partisan defender of the faith, Meretz leader Yossi Sarid was called upon to observe that the present relationship between the political and military echelons had "never been so bad."

Unintentionally, he proved what Landau was saying had merit: that indeed the situation was bad because some in the military leadership were continuing to justify and promote the former Labor objectives, despite the new mandate given to Netanyahu in the elections.

WHAT is important to observe from this whole falsely created hullabaloo, is that forces seeking to change the Labor-Histadrut stranglehold on the economy, and Labor's control of every

aspect of national life, have an immense and difficult hurdle to overcome. Today, it is the IDF-Labor relationship that has been exposed. Tomorrow it may be an investigation into why there is an invisible quota to the Labor controlled appointments to the Supreme Court, where Labor sees to it that not more than one religious Jew is allowed to be appointed to the court at any one time.

Certainly, any attack on Labor's improper use of the Histadrut to disrupt the operation of the new government by the sudden emerging pattern of calling frequent strikes in an attempt to paralyze and disrupt the functioning of day to day life, will evoke similar vicious attacks by the Labor establishment.

So will unrestrained attacks be forthcoming on critics of Labor's artificial control of the economy and its labyrinth of administrative and other roadblocks in order to prevent the privatization of industry, and the competitiveness of a free economy.

It will be hard to break the labor-Histadrut stranglehold on the economy

The writer is a founder of Women in Green.

Handwritten note: 'אנחנו מן האופ' (We are from the left)



16 The Jerusalem Post  
**Onward to Mars?**  
 GWYNE DYER

האזנה מן האל

# For the love of Yiddish!

GREER FAY CASHMAN

**P**REMATURELY eulogized, Yiddish just refuses to lie down and die. Whenever it appears that the end is finally in sight, a new group of rescuers rallies to its revival.

And believe it or not, Yiddish, for growing numbers of unaffiliated and intermarried Jews, represents a return to their roots — a point of identification — especially when neither religion nor Zionism has any deep significance for them.

This is what emerged at a recent international conference organized in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem by the New Generation Lovers of Yiddish.

Parisian-born Gilles Rozier, 33, director of Medem Yiddish Library in Paris, muses over this expanding interest in Yiddish. "French Jews are by and large terribly assimilated," he observed. "But some of these Jews now want to find out more about who they are. They don't feel comfortable in synagogues, and they have no affinity with Zionism, so they turn to Yiddish."

Some 150 people study Yiddish at the Medem library each week, and another 500 receive Yiddish language instruction at six other facilities in Paris.

Rozier himself didn't start speaking Yiddish till 10 years ago when studying for a doctorate in

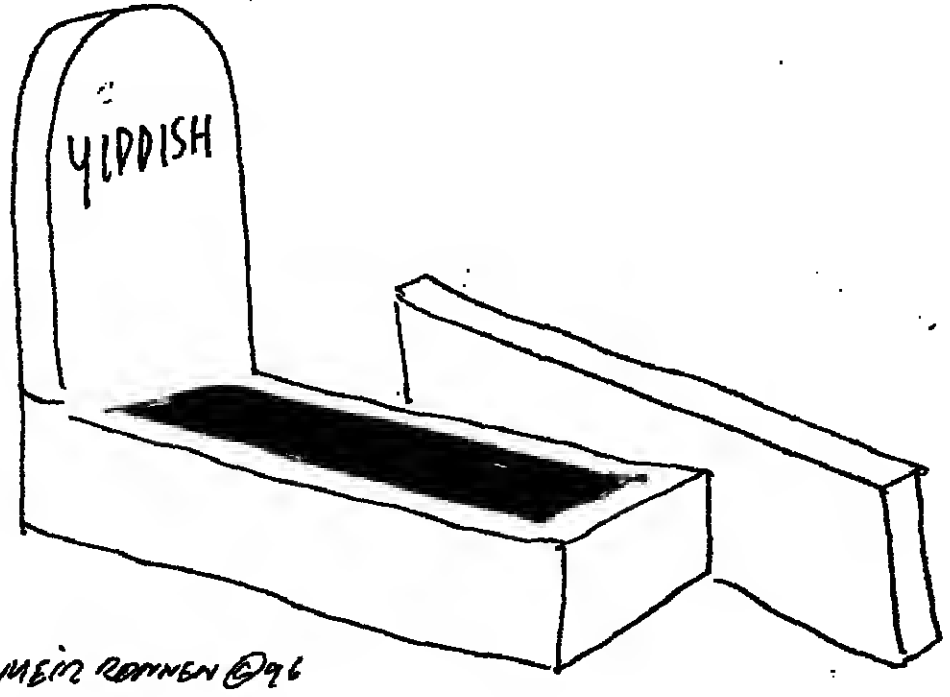
Yiddish literature. Like many others who have embraced the same field of knowledge, he felt frustrated by his inability to read the works of great Yiddish writers in the original. Fed up with having to rely on translations, he studied Yiddish for one semester at the Hebrew University, then continued in France, where he now teaches.

Today, he is himself a teacher who sounds as if he's been speaking Yiddish all his life. Better still, he can switch effortlessly from Lithuanian to Galician pronunciation and back again.

**W**HEN nursery-school teacher Marcia Gruss Levinsohn, currently of Silver Springs, Maryland, was a small child, she spoke only Yiddish to her grandmother, who died when she was seven. Gruss-Levinsohn's older siblings attended the local Yiddish school in New Jersey, but by the time it was her turn, the school had closed down.

She had an occasional pang for Yiddish, but the lack of it in her life did not really make itself felt until her own eldest grandchild, then aged four, called her "Bubbe," the Yiddish word for grandma.

"Suddenly it dawned on me that I wasn't a bubbe in the true sense of the word, so in 1983 I went to



study Yiddish." She enrolled at Columbia University in an intensive six-week course and subsequently set up a once-a-week Yiddish nursery class in her home, teaching anywhere between five and 10 children. She also invites the parents. Some are intermarried or products of mixed marriages. "They feel strange in a synagogue, so they come to me instead."

Now in her 60s, the hom-again Yiddishist teaches her young charges not only to speak but to read and write Yiddish. She even translated and published *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*, and her sister Fay Williams, who teaches art to New York high schoolers, illustrated it. For parents who had trouble with the vocabulary, Gruss-Levinsohn provided a transliterated crib sheet.

Although her grammar is more than a little rusty, and her vocabulary not nearly as rich as she would like it to be, Gruss-Levinsohn dauntlessly persists in speaking Yiddish at every opportunity. (It would have been much easier for both of us had the interview with her been conducted in English, but she refused to speak anything but Yiddish.)

Also participating in the conference: Argentinian-born Holon school principal Arye Blinder, 54, who has lived in Israel for 26 years, is an elementary-school principal who encourages students to explore Jewish heritage — of which Yiddish is a part. To pro-

vide a balance, he also introduced the study of Ladino. What intrigued him most was that when auditions were held for the Yiddish production of *Motiel the Cantor's Son*, children of Sephardi background acquitted themselves much better than their Ashkenazi schoolmates.

Fellow Argentinian expatriate Dvora Kossman, 49, who has just published an illustrated Yiddish book for children, works solely in haredi schools and teaching seminars, primarily in Jerusalem. Some haredi schools teach all subjects in Yiddish, she said, whereas others teach Yiddish as a second language. Because her domain is only in girls' schools and seminars for women, Kossman was unable to even guess at the total number of haredi youngsters receiving an education in Yiddish, but made the observation that by and large, they are not acquainted with secular Yiddish writings.

Yiddish is also taught in some 50 non-haredi schools under the so-called supervision of the Education Ministry, but several Israelis made the point that there is no proper pedagogic supervision of Yiddish in either private or state-run educational institutions.

Boris Sandler, 46, who works in the Hebrew University's Yiddish department, came here from Moldavia four years ago and speaks a verbally extensive, grammatically correct Yiddish. He edits *Kind un Keit* a Yiddish

magazine for children. Many Moldavian Jews share his fluency in Yiddish, he asserts.

Like other Yiddishists, Sandler was upset that the establishment doesn't do anything to encourage Yiddish. He had just come from Paris where he had attended a summer course in Yiddish literature. While there he had met an 18-year-old woman from Vilna, who with the aid of textbooks, had taught herself Yiddish and she speaks well. There is definitely an interest on the part of young people.

"Yiddish is not just a *shpiel* language," enthused Sandler. But like others involved in the struggle for Yiddish, Sandler is aware that it takes "a lot of budget" to bring it to the wider Jewish masses.

And budget is something the Yiddishists lack — more so since Jewish Agency chairman Avraham Burg cut off Jewish Agency resources for the preservation and promotion of Yiddish. For some people in the former Soviet Union, noted Sandler, Yiddish was their only link to the Jewish people.

**E**VEN non-Jews have a yearning for Yiddish. Professor Mari Nomaru-Nakazawa of the Department of Economics at Kanazawa University is on a one-year scholarship at the Hebrew University — to learn Yiddish. Why on earth would a Japanese professor of economics want to learn Yiddish? Simple: Nomaru-

Nakazawa's special field is Galician Jewry between the First and Second World Wars. "I want to be able to read Yiddish newspapers," she said, "because I believe that I can learn a lot more about Galician Jews from newspapers than from textbooks."

One of the most ardent proponents of all for the perpetuation of the language of his forefathers is Montreal-born software engineer Leybl Botwinik, 37, who came to Israel seven-and-a-half years ago and from his home in Netanya maintains contact via computer, fax, phone and mail with the Yiddish-speaking world.

Botwinik's father is from Vilna, where "eveo the goyim spoke Yiddish." He inculcated a great love for the language in his children.

A prolific writer, Leybl Botwinik churns out Yiddish science fiction, satire, scripts for cable television and articles on numerous subjects. He has been published in several Yiddish journals.

Both Botwinik and Sandler are absolutely convinced that there are organizations and individuals who would be willing to put up

money to ensure the propagation of Yiddish.

With East European governments expressing a willingness to pay some form of compensation for Jewish community properties seized during and after the war, Botwinik and Sandler are demanding a share for the New Generation Yiddish Lovers. "Most of the people killed were Yiddish speakers," argues Botwinik. "What we are doing is in a sense a monument to them."

He also intends to approach Mifal Hapayis, which supports the construction of educational institutions, to make funds available for the establishment of a Yiddish pedagogic center.

And he's also going to try to convince the haredi community of the potential of Yiddish outreach. It was through Yiddish that Botwinik found his own way to Yiddishkeit. Reading writers such as Peretz, he found many religious references which he didn't understand. Exploration into their meaning aroused in him a desire not only to speak the language of his grandparents and great-grandparents — but also to live their lifestyle.



Mari Nomaru-Nakazawa, student of Yiddish at Hebrew University. (Isaac Harari)



Marcia Gruss Levinsohn shows off her Yiddish translation of 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears'. (Isaac Harari)

## Did the walls come tumbling down?

MATT CRENSON

**J**UST as the Bible says, Joshua fought the battle of Jericho during the early 16th century BCE, two archeologists say.

New radiocarbon dates of cereal grains from debris left by the destruction of Jericho support several aspects of Exodus. Other scholars said the argument was interesting, but lacked evidence.

For years, geologists have suggested that many aspects of Exodus, from the parting of the Red Sea to the plague of darkness can be attributed to the eruption of the Thera volcano on the Mediterranean island of Santorini in 1628 BCE.

That predates the new Jericho destruction dates by 45 years, noted Hendrik Bruins and Johannes van der Plicht in a brief letter to the journal *Nature*.

"This time difference is rather striking, as it could fit the desert period of 40 years separating the Exodus from the destruction of Jericho," the archeologists write. Bruins is a professor at the Ben-Gurion University of the Negev. Van der Plicht is at the University of Groningen in the Netherlands.

To estimate the date of Jericho's destruction, Bruins and van der Plicht compared the radiocarbon dates of grains excavated from the debris, to a more precise date for the Thera eruption that is based on counting tree rings.

Bruins and Van der Plicht argue that the eruption of Thera caused the plagues in Egypt, allowing the Israelites to escape. Then, the Chosen People spent about 40 years in the desert, whereupon Joshua led them to victory over Jericho.

Biblical narrative has been notoriously difficult to confirm with archeological evidence, and the destruction of Jericho is no exception, said Patrick McGovern of the University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archeology and Anthropology.

The debris recovered from the crumbled city doesn't even hint at what caused its destruction — Jericho could have fallen to fire or earthquake just as easily as to invasion, most archeologists say. "The science was all fine," said Stuart Manning of the University of Reading in England. "But I thought they were sort of being archeologically naive by trying to fit it all together like this."

And even if invaders did destroy the city, the identity of Jericho's conquerors is highly uncertain. Many scholars think that ancient Egyptian armies, not Israelites, brought the city down.

"It's an intriguing theory," McGovern said. "But I still think the actual evidence that we have wouldn't warrant such a strong argument." (AP)

## Finding the right way to discipline a spoiled child

PARENTING  
 RUTH MASON

**U**ntil now, I've tried to be very tolerant, lenient and understanding and give my son lots of freedom, and now he is five, I realize I needed to be a lot stricter with him. He's too wild and often doesn't listen to me. I'm sorry I wasn't firmer with him from the start. How can I implement more discipline at this late age?

*Esti Cohen, parent educator and supervisor of parenting group leaders, replies:*

Before we can answer such a question, we must ask ourselves two questions. Why do we bring children into the world? What kind of person do we want the child to be as an adult? The answers to these questions determine the ways we educate our children. We need to match our educational methods to the personal and educational goals we have for our children.

Let's assume that the answer to the first question is, "We brought our child into the world because we wanted to observe and experience, from a perspective of responsibility and mutuality, the growth process of a human being who is close to us." And to the second question: "We want him to be a

person who is thoughtful, independent, creative, and responsible and who enriches himself and his environment."

It's clear that if these are our answers, the way we educate our child will be completely different than if our answers had been the following: "We brought our child into the world because we wanted someone who really loves us, who would hug us, listen to us, be dependent on us and to whom we could give, someone who could continue our family chain, someone who will make us feel less alone in the world and so that he could do all that we couldn't do in our lives." And to the second question, "We want him to be successful, a scientist/high-ranking army officer/businessman/famous doctor or lawyer, that he should have a happy, peaceful life, etc."

Because we do not have these answers from the person who asked the question, I'll say three general things that can help

anyone in this position:

1. Children, like all people, need freedom, but not a lack of boundaries. Finding the balance between freedom and boundaries is not learned through study but through experience. That is to say, when we do not have true inner freedom, when we do not have clear boundaries, when we confuse these two matters, we pass this confusion and lack of boundaries on to our children.
2. Boundaries give security and self-esteem and allow for growth. Without boundaries, children have trouble finding their way in the world no less, though in a different way, than children who are given no freedom.
3. A parent's job is to identify children's needs and fulfill them. Not everything a child wants is a real need, and he is not able to verbally express everything he needs, e.g. Mommy, I want to eat/sleep/change

activity/ I want you to hug me/ to stop nursing the baby and play with me like you used to, etc.

In order to identify our children's needs, we need to feel them, we need to walk around in their shoes; we need to trust them and to listen to them in a way that goes beyond their words or activities.

It's also very important that as parents, we examine what level of freedom we enjoyed as children and what our boundaries are today, as adults.

How do we put these three things into practice? Boundaries need to be given pleasantly, kindly and firmly. "You can't do that, sweetie, I'm sorry, that's impossible," or "I can't agree to this," or "At our house, this isn't done." But it must be extremely clear to you as a parent that this is not done and that if your child cries another half hour, you still don't do this.

This answer can only be a first step. I would encourage people with this kind of question to take a parenting course. And one last word: You haven't missed the boat. It's never too late.

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# BUSINESS & FINANCE

Wednesday, August 14, 1996

## Arad oil flow increasing

DAVID HARRIS

The latest oil find between Arad and the Dead Sea flowed at a rate of 600 barrels a day on Sunday and Monday, according to Israel National Oil Company Managing Director Yaron Ran.

On Sunday, INOC informed the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange that the oil had been located above another flow discovered last year.

The first find was detected in sandstone strata at a depth of 2,000 meters; this weekend's strike is some 50 to 70 meters closer to the surface. On Friday and Saturday the oil flowed at 450 barrels a day.

The new flow will be stopped this week and drilling will begin at a slightly higher depth. If the next stage also produces positive results, INOC says it intends linking the three finds, which it hopes will lead to an economically viable operation at the site.

The National Infrastructure Ministry's Petroleum Research Department says the area will have to produce 100,000 barrels for it to be considered cost effective.

So far INOC has been cautiously optimistic about the results. "Let's hope it carries on that way," Ran said, yesterday.

When the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange opened Monday, for the first time since Friday's find, shares in the company rose 10 percent in value, from 3.00 to 3.30. The 12-month high was 5.60 in January, with a low of 2.60 at the end of May. Over the first half of the year, INOC's operating profit was NIS 0.44 million.

In addition to the continuing site tests at locations in the area, Israeli oil experts still remain hopeful that significant finds will be made at sea.

In July, the government awarded the first five licenses to drill for oil in Israel's deep waters in the Mediterranean.

The winning consortium, headed by Avner Oil and Gas Ltd., intends to drill at unspecified locations off the coast between Haifa and the Gaza Strip by the end of next year.

## Knesset approves expansion of safety net for bond market

EVELYN GORDON

The Knesset approved yesterday an amendment to enable the government to increase its sales of Treasury bills, as part of its efforts to provide a safety net for the bond market.

However, the Knesset Finance Committee refused to accept the Treasury's original version of the bill, which would have enabled the government to sell unlimited quantities of T-bills for the duration of the crisis. The version passed permits the Treasury to sell only an additional NIS 15 billion worth of bills. If it wants to exceed this limit, it must come back to the Finance Committee for approval.

The amendment was passed to enable Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel to keep a promise made a few weeks ago: That the central bank would buy bonds in whatever quantity was needed to stabilize the market. These bond purchases were to be financed by selling an equal amount of T-bills, to keep the money supply constant. However, the law limits the

amount of T-bills the government is allowed to have outstanding at any given time. This ceiling, which is adjusted for inflation every six months, until yesterday stood at around NIS 196, and the government was too close to this limit to allow it much scope for its safety net.

The NIS15b. increase in the ceiling, which passed with bipartisan support by a vote of 22-0 in the first reading and 6-0 in the second, will be in effect until December 31. However, the law also stipulates that the government can only use this extra margin as part of the safety net program. Thus, if the Bank of Israel were to buy only NIS 5b. worth of bonds, for instance, the Treasury would be able to sell only another NIS 5b. worth of T-bills.

Finance Minister Dan Meridor stressed during his speech to the plenum that this amendment was meant only as a temporary measure, to tide the market over until long-range reforms can be implemented.

"This arrangement is not a solution to the crisis of the capital markets," he said, terming it an "unusual measure" which the government hopes will not be needed again.

"[The government] normally does not intervene in the capital markets, but there are times when it must intervene - such as when there is a collapse," he added, citing the Federal Reserve Board's 1987 intervention in the US market as an example.

Former finance minister Avraham Shohat said that while he "understood [the government's] need to do something," he was afraid that the Bank of Israel's safety net would not be enough. This net has already been in place for a couple of weeks, he said, but the flood of provident fund redemptions has not stopped, and therefore neither has the sale of government bonds by funds desperate for cash to meet the redemptions.

"My feeling is that this flood [of T-bill sales] won't help," he said.

### BUSINESS BRIEFS

**Yellow Pages on Internet:** The Yellow Pages' Hebrew-language listings of individuals' phone numbers and classified listings of companies and organizations have been put on the Internet. The new service includes two million individual numbers and 170,000 commercial numbers, all accessible by searching the Yellow Pages' new World Wide Web site.

The site is located at [www.yellowpages.co.il](http://www.yellowpages.co.il). An English-language on-line directory is expected to appear in a few months; so far, only Yellow Pages' export and tourism phone directories in English have been put on the Web Site. No information was available about any plans to have an Arabic-language directory on the site.

According to the Yellow Pages spokeswoman, there is no intention of reducing the number of printed phone books. *Judy Siegel*

**Egypt - finally - exports coal:** Egypt exported its first shipment of coal this week, 30 years after starting work at its only coal mine, the Ministry of Industry said yesterday.

A ministry spokesman said a 6,000-ton cargo, the first to be extracted from Maghara coal mine in the Sinai peninsula, left the Mediterranean port of El-Arish on Monday for Turkey.

"So far we only have a contract with Turkey," the spokesman said, adding that Egypt hoped to send a total of 40,000 tons to Turkey this year, doubling to at least 80,000 tons in 1997.

He said the mine would have a production capacity of 600,000 tons a year.

Officials said last year they hoped to eventually start exports to Israel, which now buys coal from South Africa. *Reuter*

## Makhteshim profits up 40% in 2nd quarter

COMPANY RESULTS

GALIT LIPKIS BECK and JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

**MAKHTESHIM** Chemical Works, the Beersheva-based agrochemical exporter, reported a 40 percent growth in net profits for the second quarter of 1996 to \$11 million, compared with \$8m. in the corresponding quarter in 1995.

Net income in the first six months of the year rose 12% to \$23m. compared to \$20m.

Sales in the second quarter of the year rose 9% to \$125m. compared to \$115m. Sales in the first six months of the year increased to \$297m. compared to \$268m., up 10.8%.

Shlomo Yonas, general manager of the company, said Makhteshim hopes to increase future profits and sales by penetrating new markets. The company, in partnership with Agan, recently purchased 49% of Aragonese Agro, a Spanish manufacturer and distributor of crop protection chemicals.

Yonas said Makhteshim is continuing its efforts to expand its products' licensing in the US by signing long-term supply contracts with American distribution companies.

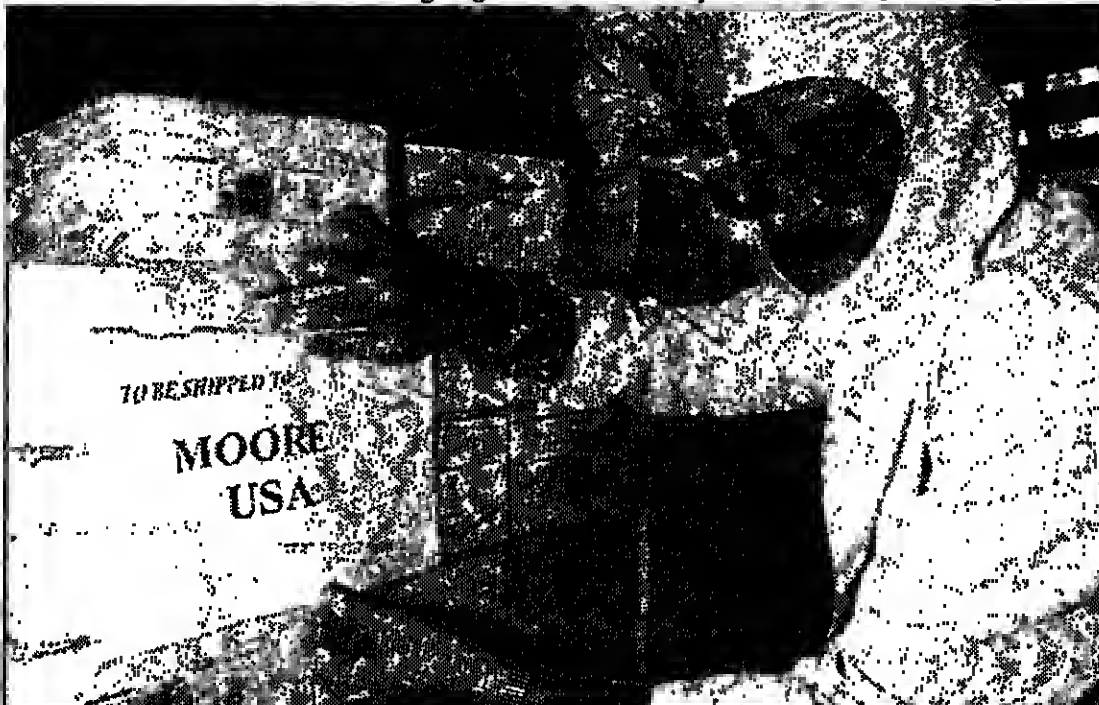
Operating income in the second quarter increased to \$19m. compared to \$14m. In the first six months of the year Makhteshim invested about \$21m. in new installations and in the production infrastructure of its plants.

The parent company of Sonol, Supergas and Vulcan, reported a small growth in net profits for the second quarter of 1996 to NIS 11.2m. compared to NIS 11m. in the previous year.

Net profits for the first six months of the year rose to NIS 25.9m. compared to NIS 24.7m. Sales in the first half of 1996 rose 4% to NIS 1.35 billion from NIS 1.29b.

Granite General Manager Moshe Erez said net sales in the first six months fell to NIS 818m. from NIS 842m. mainly because of a decrease in the sale of petrol products. The drop in net sales was offset by a rise in the price of fuel products on international markets.

Operating profits in the first six months fell to NIS 47.2m. from NIS 47.9m.



An employee of Jordan's leading pharmaceutical company, Hikma, pastes labels on a consignment of drugs for the US-market. The Amman-based company became the first drugs manufacturer from the Arab world to export medication to the US. Hikma succeeded in getting FDA approval for its non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug. *(Reuter)*

## Public Utilities Authority keen to encourage competition with IEC

DAVID HARRIS

INTRODUCING some form of competition in the electricity market is essential, a senior source in the newly established Public Utilities Authority yesterday said, adding that the authority is "taking a close look at competition in the power field."

Last week General Electric (GE) said it would seriously consider maintaining and operating private power stations here, if the Israel Electric Corporation (IEC) lost its monopoly.

The authority is encouraged by GE's decision to open an office in Tel Aviv and is checking how serious it is about playing a major role in Israel's power business, according to the source.

IEC spokeswoman Yael Ne'emman said in response that the sector is already open to competition. Four tenders to generate electricity of up to 65 megawatts have already been awarded, with others currently being considered, to a maximum of 10% of the market. This will soon expand to 20%, said Ne'emman, referring to the terms of IEC's recently renewed franchise.

Half of that 20% is designated for suppliers outside Israel, in the hope that regional developments will allow for that sort of arrangement with neighboring countries, particularly water-rich Lebanon.

Currently no private power generating stations exist

here because of the IEC's monopoly, though both Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and Finance Minister Dan Meridor have repeatedly expressed their desire to introduce competition in power generation and distribution.

Since the elections there has been intense media speculation that IEC would be one of the first state-run companies to lose its monopoly. But last week it emerged that Netanyahu does not intend to immediately engage in a confrontation with IEC's powerful union, which staunchly opposes structural-reform designs in the company.

It now appears that structural changes will first be made to less powerful government companies, with a final list being drawn up by Meridor later this week.

Meanwhile, one of those being considered to join the authority, according to the source, is former Bank of Israel governor Michael Bruno.

The authority, which was formed in April, still has just one member, former Ben-Gurion University president Chaim Elata, despite the legal requirement for five appointees. Meridor and National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon are expected to select four more candidates this month. One appointee will come from each of their ministries, and two more from outside government, one of whom could be Bruno.

## Motorola wins \$10m. contract in Ghana

JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

GHANA Telecommunications has awarded the cellular infrastructure group of Motorola (Israel) a \$10 million contract to upgrade its phone system.

Motorola's Wireless Local Loop system (WLL), which does not require phone cables, allows companies to offer advanced telecommunications services by bypassing the tedious and expensive process of laying telephone lines.

The WLL system will increase the capacity of the one Motorola previously provided Ghana Telecommunications from 3,800 to 13,000 subscribers. Motorola

will install 6,500 telephone terminals in the Ghana's capital, Accra, and another 3,000 telephones in villages surrounding the city, allowing people who have never before had telephones to make calls.

Motorola expects that the properties to be completed by the end of the year.

Motorola's WLL system, which has been installed in other African countries, including Benin and the Central African Republic, provides a solution for developing countries where telecommunications infrastructure is primitive.

## Iran sets sights on more gas export projects

DUBAI (Reuter) - Energy-rich Iran has more big gas export projects like its multi-billion dollar deal with Turkey in the works, despite threatened US sanctions, Iranian officials and Gulf industry sources said yesterday.

Iran, which possesses the world's second-largest reserves of gas behind those of Russia, is aiming to seal a money-spinning gas export deal to its eastern neighbors Pakistan and India and a project to export its gas all the way to Europe.

"Supplying gas to our neighbors has top priority for us... We are in the process of negotiating a gas supply agreement with Pakistan. India is also a top priority for us," Iranian Oil Minister Gholamreza Aghazadeh said, in a statement.

Iranian plans to export natural gas to Europe would take a step forward when a consortium of European gas firms announces results of a study into the project "in the near future," Aghazadeh said.

Teheran's negotiations to sell gas to Pakistan and India follow its \$23 billion deal with its western neighbor Turkey for supplies of Iranian gas up to the year 2020.

The deal, which was signed by Aghazadeh and Turkish Energy Minister Recai Kutan in Teheran on Monday, came just one week after a new US sanctions law that penalizes non-US firms that invest \$40 million or more a year in the oil and gas sectors of either Iran or Libya.

The United States urged Turkey not to go ahead with the deal but said it would have to study the agreement

and the new law carefully before deciding whether it would trigger US sanctions.

Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto told reporters in Teheran last November that Iran and Pakistan had agreed work on their pipeline would start this year, although this timetable is expected to slip.

The Iran-Pakistan project is expected to cost around \$3.5 billion to construct a 1,600 km pipeline to carry 1.6 billion cubic feet a day of Iranian gas to Pakistan's southern province of Sindh and then on to India.

US Senator Alfonse D'Amato, a primary architect behind the Iran-Libya Sanctions Act signed by US President Bill Clinton on August 5, has already warned foreign firms from getting involved in the Iran-Pakistan-India project.

Australia's Broken Hill Pty Co Ltd (BHP) has confirmed that it and several other Western companies had held talks with Teheran on the proposed gas export project, but that BHP had not made any commitments.

Industry sources were more sceptical of the Iran-Europe plan because of technical and political obstacles that would need to be overcome for the project, first raised in the mid-1970s, to get further than the drawing board.

Implementing supply deals with Pakistan, India and Turkey would represent a turnaround and financial boom for the Iranian gas industry, which has suffered the loss of its key Russian export market since 1980.

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ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK

(Continued from Page 1)

In Jerusalem, Shahak also reacted for the first time to committee chairman Uzi Landau's statements that the army brass had been acting like "yes-men" to the previous government. The army chief, who was involved in negotiating the implementation of the Oslo accords, said he knew of no officer who volunteered to participate in the negotiations.

(Continued from Page 1)

The status of Hebron during the interim period was the last substantive sticking point of the Taba talks last September as Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat fought hard and insisted that most of Hebron should be designated Area A.

Palestinian officials, from Arafat down, have repeatedly said that they will not renegotiate any signed agreement. They only accepted a delay in implementation of the Hebron redeployment, originally scheduled for March

**KATYUSHAS**

"On the contrary, there were quite a few officers who asked not to participate but who were ordered to do so," Shahak said. "No military person presented his personal opinion."

He added, however, that the military may have given a mistaken assessment.

Nearly half of the committee

meeting was devoted to the rhetoric, with most members voicing opposition to Landau's comments about the IDF top brass. Before the discussion, all military personnel - except for Shahak - were asked to leave the room.

Labor MK Binyamin Ben-Eliezer called for Landau to resign and even Tsomet MKs, like Piní Badash, came out against Landau.

**HEBRON**

28, in recognition of the security concerns of the previous government after the spring suicide bombings.

Mohammed Dahlan, chief of preventive security in Gaza, told Israeli journalists Saturday that "there is no possibility of changing agreements. The problem of Hebron is the settlers. They are a source of tension in all of the West Bank."

Meanwhile, the National Religious Party said that the pre-

sent plans for Hebron constitute a concrete threat to the lives of the Jewish settlers, it reported.

The NRP will fight for security to remain in the hands of the IDF in Hebron "to ensure the lives of the settlers and Jewish visitors to the city and to the Machpeta Cave," the NRP faction said.

It added that it planned to coordinate with other Knesset factions, such as Tsomet and Yisrael Ba'aliya, to present a joint front to the prime minister.

Jon Immanuel contributed to this report.

**CARAVANS**

(Continued from Page 1)

Wallerstein estimated that the cost of refurbishing each unit is between NIS 10,000 and NIS 30,000.

"The caravans that are available have just been vacated by new immigrants who lived there for the past five to eight years," he said. "They're not exactly in good physical shape."

Wallerstein said the local authorities have asked the Education Ministry for funding to refurbish and transport the mobile units earmarked for classrooms. However, only a fraction of the units approved are earmarked for classrooms.

Wallerstein also said that Mordechai's decision to allow the units to be moved should not be regarded as exceptional, because they are needed to make up for the shortages the former govern-

ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS				
Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (28.7.96)				
Currency (deposit term)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS	Rep.
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	4.750	4.875	5.375	3.5373
Pound sterling (£100,000)	4.8284	4.9028	4.78	2.1253
German mark (DM 200,000)	0.6154	2.9418	1.84	4.8806
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	1.6789	0.6254	2.84	0.8206
Japanese yen (100)	1.6789	1.9093	1.94	2.9173
Dutch guilder	2.5815	2.6938	2.54	2.87
Swedish krona	0.4828	0.4782	0.47	0.51
Norwegian krona	0.4870	0.4946	0.48	0.4728
Danish krone	0.5448	0.5538	0.53	0.4910
Finnish mark	2.2710	0.7116	0.68	0.7081
Canadian dollar	2.4247	2.4889	2.23	2.2445
Australian dollar	0.8879	0.9690	2.38	2.4445
S. African rand	1.0229	1.0383	0.62	0.70
Belgian franc (10)	2.8967	3.0481	1.00	1.0810
Austrian schilling (10)	2.0564	2.0899	2.02	3.0204
Italian lire (100)	4.3300	4.6300	4.33	2.0730
Irish punt	0.8800	0.9600	0.88	4.5046
ECU	3.9882	4.0221	0.89	0.9882
Irish punt	0.5156	5.0964	4.82	3.9901
Spanish peseta (100)	2.4763	2.5163	2.43	5.0621
				2.4963

\*These rates vary according to bank. \*\*Bank of Israel.  
SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

مذا من الاصل



Key Representative Rates table showing US dollar, Sterling, and Mark exchange rates against NIS.

NYSE STOCK MARKET table with columns for Last, Change, and Volume.

Other stock market indexes table including FTSE 100, Tokyo Nikkei average, and Hong Kong Hang Seng.

Israeli stocks in NY table listing various companies like Amn & Papp, Amn A, and Amn B.

INTELLIGENCE MARKET table showing dollar crossrates for various currencies.

INTELLIGENCE MARKET table showing US commodities and London commodities.

TEL AVIV STOCKS

Main Tel Aviv Stock Market table with columns for Name, Price, Change, Volume, and % Change.

INTERNATIONAL STOCK PRICES

Large table of international stock prices for various countries including New York, London, and Paris.

Stocks fall on concern of further provident fund withdrawals

STOCK indexes fell for a fifth day, amid concern investors would continue to withdraw money from provident funds...

Declining Maof Index-listed shares included IDB Holdings, which fell 7%. The company's stock soared 10% Monday amid speculation entrepreneur George Soros was buying a stake in the company.

Eurobourses resist US data, dollar quiet

LONDON (Reuters) - Unexpectedly strong US data gave stock and bond markets an unpleasant surprise yesterday but did little to budge the dollar in seasonally slow currency trading.

The surprise US economic news, which provoked uncertainty on interest rates, left Wall Street lower by late morning in New York. But key European bourses had shaken off their fears by the end of their day.

Analysts said computer selling programs extended losses in US stocks, with the Dow Jones industrial average down around 28 points to 5,677 as the last European market closed.

The French franc, hit recently by concern over European monetary union and speculation on monetary policy rifts at home, faced selling by domestic investors and US funds ahead of a four-day holiday weekend from tomorrow, dealers said.

Traders said the French central bank had bought small amounts of francs to slow the decline of its currency.

The mark was firm against most currencies but the Swiss franc, a recent market favorite, took advantage of firmer money market rates to stage a fresh rally.

Oil prices dipped but held on to some of the sharp gains posted in Monday's rally as the market continued to defy analysts' predictions for a price fall.

London futures for benchmark North Sea Brent Blood crude oil for September delivery stood at \$20.50 in late afternoon, down 16 cents from the close on Monday, which was a three-month high.

The American July consumer prices (CPI) and retail sales figures prompted some market fear of higher interest rates.

A 0.3 percent rise in consumer prices topped expectations of a 0.2% gain. Retail sales also beat estimates, rising 0.1 percent instead of a forecast 0.3% drop.

But economists did not generally believe the data, following a run of weaker statistics, would be enough to prompt the US central bank, the Federal Reserve, into action later this month.

"The rise in the CPI was due to an above-trend rise in housing costs. I don't think the (US Federal Reserve) is going to overreact to one slightly above-trend number," said IDEA economist David Sloan.

Traders said the dollar might not make any major moves before policy-making committees of the US and German central banks meet separately next week.

"Nothing seems to affect the dollar," said Dorit Ronnen, foreign exchange trader at Bank Leumi Trust Co. of New York.

"The CPI came out a little higher than expected but there really hasn't been much impact."

Wall Street's rebound on Monday from early losses had encouraged the London stock market, Europe's biggest, to rise to four-month highs. It ended little more than 30 points on the FTSE 100 share index adrift of its record level hit in April.

"The market has a fresher feel to it...there are a few bid rumors around and banks have continued on their good run," said one London trader.

British government bonds shook off the influence of lower US bonds to end slightly higher.

In Frankfurt, the bourse, supported by firm debt markets and futures, was led higher by interest in car makers, chemicals stocks and banks. Shares in Volkswagen, which announced profits that were higher but below market expectations, ended floor trade at 524 marks, up 1.80 on the day.

The Paris bourse ended marginally higher in slow summer trade after a row of fluctuations during the day. Renault gained two percent initially after a smaller-than-expected drop in sales but later lost most of its gains.

Bond sell-off lowers Dow

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Blue-chip stocks fell sharply yesterday amid a sell-off in the bond market as new economic data reignited fears of inflation.

data, the Dow Jones industrial average fell 57.70 points to close at 5,647.28. In the broader market, declining issues outpaced gainers by a 7-to-4 margin in New York Stock Exchange volume of about 341 million shares.

WALL STREET REPORT

Table showing bond yields for various countries like Germany, France, and the UK.

Table showing currency cross-rates for various currencies against the US dollar.

Table showing gold prices in various currencies.

Table showing oil prices for various grades.

Table showing various commodity prices.

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SPORTS

Israel-Romania: Image problems beset Springboks

DEREK FATTAL

ISRAEL'S national soccer squad takes on Romania in Bucharest tonight for its last friendly match before the 1998 World Cup group qualifiers begin. On September 1st, Israel travels to Bulgaria for its opening match.

JOHANNESBURG (Reuters) - Just over a year after winning the world rugby union crown, the Springboks are reeling this week from a series of defeats and renewed political image problems.

But this month Pienaar was trying to fend off controversy again after scores of fans waved the old national flag of the apartheid era at a Bloemfontein Test against Australia.

because he had been accused of breaking team discipline by going to a nightclub 48 hours before the Test.

And in another unexpected move they selected prop Os du Randt to play again despite his leaving the field last Saturday with a suspected concussion.

A's Berroa has 2nd 3-HR game this season

OAKLAND (AP) - Geronimo Berroa hit three home runs in a game for the second time this season and Mark McGwire hit his 40th and 41st homers, leading the Athletics to a 11-1 romp on Monday over the Minnesota Twins.



BASEBRAWL - Expos' Jeff Juden takes a shot at Astros' John Cangelosi in Monday's rhabarb.

MONDAY'S NL RESULTS: Toronto 5, Boston 1 Texas 7, Detroit 0 Chicago 3, New York 2 (10) Oakland 11, Cincinnati 5 Chicago 11, New York 1

Essex, Lancs win NatWest semis

LONDON (Reuters) - Alec Stewart hit his second century in four days but finished on the losing side at the Oval yesterday as Essex pipped Surrey to a place in the final of the English county one-day NatWest Trophy.

Hussain early on, but when Australian Stuart Law came to the crease their chase took off.

Smith signs \$48m. deal with Cowboys

IRVING (AP) - The Dallas Cowboys gave the NFL's best running back one of the league's biggest contracts Monday, rewarding Emmitt Smith with an eight-year deal worth \$48 million.

Berroa, who also hit three homers on May 22 at New York, became the 10th player in major league history to hit three homers in a game twice in the same season.

The A's have 193 homers this season and are on pace to break the major league record of 240 set by the 1961 Yankees.

McGwire, who has played 90 of Oakland's 120 games, needs 20 homers in the Athletics' final 42 games to tie Roger Maris' record of 61 home runs in one season.

Riley: NBA broke rules on Howard

MIAMI (AP) - While Juwan Howard made his triumphant return to Washington, Pat Riley seethed at the NBA, claiming it stole the valuable free agent from the Miami Heat by breaking its own rules.

Meanwhile in Washington on Monday, Howard was reintroduced to the team he initially left.

Johnson, Morceli to miss big Zurich payday

ZURICH (Reuters) - Olympic success has taken its toll on the bodies and the bank balances of champions Michael Johnson and Noureddine Morceli, two of the biggest names in athletics.

SPORTS BRIEFS

2nd Cuban baseball player defects A 16-year-old pitcher for the Cuban junior Olympic team defected to the US, the second team member to do so in a week.

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# Ne'eman interrogated under warning

FORMER justice minister Ya'acov Ne'eman was interrogated for six hours yesterday at National Police headquarters in Jerusalem - under warning from investigators that his answers may be used against him if charges are filed.

Ne'eman, who last week resigned from his post, has been questioned in the past by police. However, yesterday marked the first time he was questioned under warning.

The investigation is being carried out by a team of senior police

BILL HUTMAN

investigators because of its sensitivity. Investigators have reportedly found contradictions in past statements Ne'eman gave and asked him for an explanation yesterday. Police sources said the former minister may be summoned again.

Ne'eman is under investigation for allegations that in 1991 he tried to convince a witness not to cooperate with police investigating alleged financial wrongdoing by MK Aryeh Deri. The allega-

tions came out recently during the Deri trial.

Ne'eman resigned after Attorney-General Michael Ben-Yair ordered an investigation. He may return to the government if he is cleared of the allegations.

Ne'eman, who declined to speak to reporters when he left police headquarters, has denied any wrongdoing and publicly criticized Ben-Yair for ordering that he be investigated.

Ne'eman arrived for questioning at around 8:30 a.m. and left police headquarters at 2:30 p.m.

# Poraz petitions High Court against political appointments

EVELYN GORDON

MK Avraham Poraz (Meretz) petitioned the High Court of Justice yesterday against the cabinet's decision to appoint ministry deputy director-generals without a tender.

In the petition, filed by attorney Dafna Holtz-Lechner, Poraz charged that this decision was made strictly for political reasons - to facilitate the complicated arrangement in the Religious Affairs Ministry, whereby the positions of minister, director-general and deputy director-general will rotate between SBs and the National Religious Party each year - and was therefore completely unjustifiable.

The decision was made without consulting the Civil Service Commission and in defiance of the recommendations of two public commissions, the petition continued. According to these commissions, a ministry director-general should be a non-political professional and should therefore be appointed by the ordinary tender

process.

Furthermore, Poraz argued, exempting this position from the tender process would discourage talented people from entering the civil service. Already, ministry director-generalships are not generally awarded to ordinary civil servants; this decision would largely bar civil servants from the next-highest ministerial job as well, he said.

Finally, Poraz charged, the decision would cost some NIS 7.5 million a year, at a time when the government is cutting budgets and instituting a hiring freeze.

Cabinet Secretary Dan Naveh, responding on the government's behalf, rejected most of Poraz's charges.

First, he said, the decision to exempt any position from the tender process does not require consultation with the Civil Service Commission; by law, it requires only a cabinet decision. As a

result, he said, none of the dozens of posts which were added to the exempt list in previous years ever entailed such a consultation. Most of these posts, he added, are of a lower rank than deputy director-general.

Secondly, Naveh noted, it was the previous government which first decided to exempt the deputy director-general of the Prime Minister's Office from the tender process; the current government is merely expanding this precedent to other ministries. The previous government also added several other positions to the exempt list, including regional directors in the Interior Ministry and the head of the Government Press Office, he added.

Finally, Naveh said, Poraz's charge that the decision will cost money is sheer nonsense. Ministry deputy director-generals would have to be hired and paid in any case; the only question at issue is which hiring process will be used.

# Miller: Rehov Bar-Ilan tunnel won't solve problem for now

BILL HUTMAN

JERUSALEM Mayor Ehud Olmert's proposal to build a multi-million dollar tunnel to replace Rehov Bar-Ilan is no solution to the present conflict over whether the road should be opened on Shabbat, Deputy Mayor Haim Miller, of the United Torah Judaism faction, said yesterday.

"Maybe a couple of years from now, if the tunnel is indeed built, it will help. But in the meantime, the proposal doesn't help at all," Miller said. He added that he could not say whether the tunnel, if built, would satisfy barei'd demands.

For now, haredi politicians and the haredi public would continue to push for the road's closure at least during prayer times on Shabbat and holidays, according

to Miller.

The High Court is scheduled to hear later this week several petitions by secular groups and politicians demanding the road be kept open, but it is unclear when the court will rule on the matter.

On Monday, Olmert raised the tunnel proposal with Transport Minister Yitzhak Levy. Olmert said afterwards that Levy supported the proposal, as did President Ezer Weizman, and that he would soon raise it with Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu.

"We must find a solution that will provide an answer to the [haredi] residents, and those who are unwilling to give up their right to drive in the area on Shabbat,"

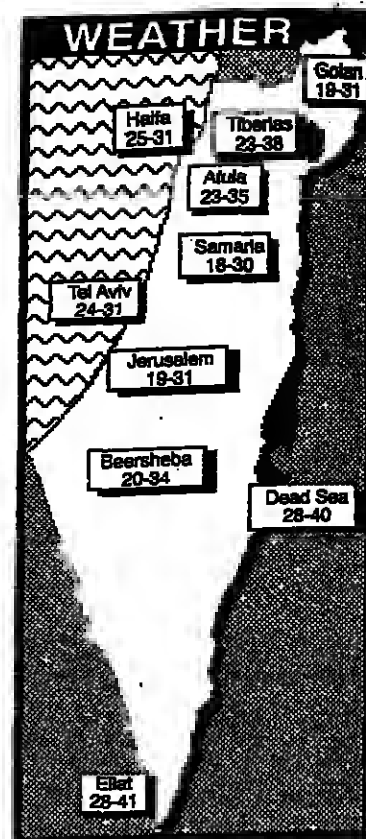
Olmert said. "There is no other solution than a road that will not disturb the haredim and will not infringe on the right of the secular population to travel - and that means building a tunnel."

The mayor estimated the tunnel would have to run about 1.2 kilometers and cost about NIS 17 million. It would take about two years to build. A tunnel will also help ease the traffic congestion in the area during the week, according to Olmert.

"I think that the prime minister will see that there is no problem with supporting the idea, only someone will have to find the funding," Olmert said. If the tunnel is built, "residents who want to travel will be able to drive with no problem, underground," he said.



One of the numerous kites that flew in yesterday's 'Affionada,' an annual kite-flying event held at the Israel Museum in Jerusalem. Hundreds of families participated. (Avi Hayoun)



Forecast: Partly cloudy to clear. No change in temperatures.

CITY	LOW		HIGH		CLOUDY
	C	F	C	F	
Amsterdam	14	57	20	68	cloudy
Berlin	15	59	20	70	rain
Buenos Aires	07	45	20	70	rain
Calcutta	22	72	28	82	rain
Chicago	18	64	28	82	rain
Copenhagen	16	61	28	82	rain
Frankfurt	14	57	20	68	rain
Geneva	11	52	18	64	rain
Helsinki	08	46	18	64	rain
Hong Kong	26	79	28	82	rain
Jakarta	24	75	28	82	rain
London	15	59	20	70	rain
Madrid	18	64	28	82	rain
Moscow	12	54	24	75	rain
Mumbai	24	75	28	82	rain
New York	18	64	28	82	rain
Osaka	22	72	28	82	rain
Paris	12	54	21	70	rain
Rome	18	64	28	82	rain
Sydney	19	66	28	82	rain
Tel Aviv	24	75	28	82	rain
Toronto	18	64	28	82	rain
Vancouver	15	59	20	70	rain

**Winning cards & numbers**

In yesterday's Mifal Hapayis daily Chance card draw, the lucky cards were the ace of spades, the queen of hearts, the queen of diamonds, and the seven of clubs.

In last night's weekly Lotto drawing, the winning numbers were 7, 21, 23, 27, 44 and 46 and the additional number was 17.

# Germany asks Italy to extradite Priebeke and Hass

News agencies

BONN has asked Italy to extradite former SS officers Erich Priebeke and Karl Hass to stand trial in Germany for alleged Nazi war crimes, the two countries said yesterday.

German Justice Ministry spokesman Bernhard Boehm said a request had been submitted on Monday for the extradition of the 83-year-old Priebeke, whose freeing by a military tribunal in Rome nearly two weeks ago sparked protests all over the world.

In Jerusalem, an attorney petitioned the High Court of Justice asking it to force the government to explain why it is not asking to have Priebeke extradited to Israel. The court asked for a response from the Justice Ministry's High Court of Justice Department, after which it will decide whether to hear the petition.

The Italian tribunal found Priebeke guilty of involvement in the 1944 massacre of 335 men

and boys in Rome's Ardeatine Caves, convicting him of two counts of murder and of helping to organize the massacre. They rejected his defense that he would have risked death by refusing to obey orders and that the massacre was a legitimate reprisal.

But they ruled that aggravating factors, such as premeditation and cruelty, did not apply to Priebeke's role in the massacre, making his crime subject to a 30-year statute of limitations.

Boehm did not mention Hass, but an Italian Justice Ministry spokeswoman in Rome said a request for his extradition had arrived separately on August 9. Both were being studied, she added.

Boehm said the chances of Priebeke's extradi-

tion did not look as slim as they had just under two weeks ago.

"Priebeke is wanted on two counts of murder in Germany. He is also charged with registering the names of the victims and helping to organize the massacre," Boehm told Reuters.

Priebeke and Hass have each admitted shooting two of the 335 victims in an SS reprisal for a partisan attack. The massacre was the worst Nazi atrocity in Italy during World War II.

Priebeke was re-arrested hours after the military tribunal released him and is now being held in a central Rome prison.

"The Italian verdict does not apply to other countries. So he could be prosecuted somewhere else on the same charges," Boehm said, adding that he would also be liable for extradition to Germany from any country but Italy.

# Volcker committee begins search for Holocaust funds in Swiss banks

MARILYN HENRY NEW YORK

SWISS bankers and Jewish organizations today began the business of identifying dormant assets in Swiss banks when an independent committee, led by American banker

Paul Volcker, meets in New York. The Volcker committee's initial task is to name an auditor to conduct a review of Swiss accounts. That may provide the first clue

about how strenuously Volcker will take his role as chairman and how independent he intends to be. The commission had selected an auditor before Volcker agreed to join, but it was believed that Volcker wanted to reconsider that choice.

The Volcker committee's first meeting comes more than three months after the World Jewish Restitution Organization and the Swiss Bankers Association signed an agreement to cooperate.

It remains to be seen how widely or narrowly Volcker will define the mission of the six-member committee, whose Jewish delegates are Abraham Burg, head of the Jewish Agency; Ruben Burg, the one-time head of the Jewish community of Argentina; and Ronald Lauder, a businessman-philanthropist who is close to Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu.

There appears to be substantial leeway. According to the May 2 agreement, the committee is to instruct the auditor "as to the scope of its duties." The only specific instructions are for the auditor to examine the "methodology" of individual banks, the Swiss Bankers Association and the Swiss Office of the Ombudsman, "as regards the search for accounts and assets in question." However, some in the Jewish community have called for a broader investigation that would include non-bank financial institutions, such as insurance companies and transfer agencies.

The auditor is to have "unfettered access to all relevant files in banking institutions," but must be licensed in Switzerland and be bound by Swiss secrecy laws.

The committee has no direct access to the records.

The last official review of dormant accounts in Swiss banks, in 1962, determined that there was

approximately 9 million Swiss francs, then valued at \$2 million, that was likely to be of Jewish origin. The bankers said earlier this year that there is approximately \$32 billion in dormant accounts. That has been challenged as far too low by Jewish groups.

Volcker, the chairman of the US Federal Reserve Board from 1979-1987, is chairman of Wolfensohn and Co., a New York investment bank that recently was bought by Bankers Trust. He was once the most influential banker in the world, and his every move was scrutinized for hints about his economic policy.

The Bankers Association, meanwhile, publicly gave its support last week to pending Swiss legislation that calls for a wide-ranging "critical legal and historical review" of the scope and fate of Jewish assets in Switzerland during the Nazi era.

However, the bankers said, precise regulations are needed to protect privacy.

# Prison security committee set to present findings

RAINE MARCUS

WARNING letters were sent on Monday night to 11 prison wardens by the committee set up to investigate the circumstances of the escape of two security prisoners from Ashmoreton prison 10 days ago.

The findings of the committee, headed by former Prisons Service commissioner Levy Shaul, are expected to be presented to Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani today and results will probably be released tomorrow, a source said.

The committee investigated the prison conditions of all security prisoners to ensure that future incidents are prevented. The probe therefore took longer than anticipated.

Prisons Service Commissioner Arye Bibi is not expected to be suspended, nor given a warning, a senior source said. Immediately after the breakout, he had declared that if the committee felt he was to blame for the escape in any way, he would resign.

Reports that Bibi is intending to resign his post in six months' time because of the embarrassing incident were dismissed outright by senior sources yesterday. In any case, his four-year term is due to end next February, although it may theoretically be renewed for another year.

Several months ago, a committee had been formed to look into security breaches. At the time, Bibi recommended improvements and some NIS 1.5 million were invested in renovations and improvements. The two prisoners escaped while renovations were underway at Ashmoreton prison.

Out of the eight Prisons Service personnel transferred or suspended pending Levy Shaul's inquiry, at least one is expected to be moved back to his original post. The only warden who may be fired outright is Ashmoreton's intelligence officer, a source said.

The committee is also expected to list recommendations for improved intelligence in all prisons. Some Prisons Service officers, including one senior officer, are likely to be reprimanded, the source added.

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